

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuba conference debates
'market socialism'

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Curtis is out of prison, but still not a free man

BY ANGEL LARISCY

FT. MADISON, Iowa — "Many people tell me I should take it easy, that it would be best to live the quiet life after I'm out of prison and home," said Mark Curtis to 32 supporters who had gathered across the street from the maximum security prison here.

"But I can't live quietly in a world where over 30 Black churches are burned to the ground; where U.S. troops roam the globe at will to make things safe for big-business interests; a world that creates the kind of hell I just came from."

After seven and a half years in prison, Mark Curtis left the grounds of the Iowa State Penitentiary here at 8:14 am on Tuesday, June 18, to address supporters of his fight. Imprisoned since 1988 on frame-up charges of attempted rape and burglary in Iowa, Curtis recently won parole to Chicago, Illinois, where his wife, Kate Kaku, resides.

Trade unionists, political activists, family and other supporters traveled from eight states to welcome Curtis, celebrate this victory, and at the same time recommit themselves to his continued defense, as Curtis faces new challenges on parole.

Hazel Zimmerman, a longtime leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee (MCDC), chaired a welcoming ceremony held across the road from the prison immediately after Curtis's release. She greeted Curtis "on behalf of the many thousands of people all over the world who have worked hard for this day."

Tom Alter, speaking for the Young Socialists National Committee, welcomed Curtis and said, "Your struggle has been an inspiration to us in the Young Socialists as you have reached out to fighters around the world." Alter noted that now that Curtis was released, he and other YS members looked forward "to fighting shoulder to shoulder

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Mark Curtis, right, is greeted by meatpacker David Ochoa outside Iowa State Penitentiary. Curtis faces severe restrictions as part of parole on frame-up charges.

Socialists: 'Federal troops to defend Black churches'

The following statement was released June 19 by James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

Responsibility for the escalating racist burnings of Black churches throughout the South weighs squarely on the shoulders of the federal government. Two more Black churches were torched in Mississippi June 17, bringing the total number of churches

burned to 37 — at least four in the last week. If this continues, lives may also be lost. We hold the government accountable for the safety and well being of Afro-Americans who attend these churches.

The White House, by its inaction, creates a climate that permits the racist arsonists to feel they can act with impunity. The continuing attacks on affirmative action and the recent blow against voting rights struck by the Supreme Court put wind in the sails of

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'All-out to build socialist conference'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"Members of the Socialist Workers Party are focusing their energies over the next two weeks in building the international socialist conference that will be held at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, July 6-9," said Joel Britton, the party's national trade union director, in an interview. Socialist industrial workers are reaching out to McDonnell Douglas strikers, as well as other working-class fighters and rebel youth, and inviting them

to the gathering.

The conference is co-hosted by the SWP and the Young Socialists. Jack Willey, organizer of the YS national steering committee, spoke to the *Militant* from Los Angeles June 19. The YS leader is on tour in California working with Young Socialists members who are taking part in actions demanding equal rights for immigrants, opposing attacks on affirmative action, and organizing protests around these issues during the

Republican Party convention scheduled for August in San Diego.

"YS chapters are on an all-out effort to bring youth attracted to revolution to the socialist conference," Willey said. Among those will be a number of activists building the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange (see page 8). The Young Socialists will hold an international meeting during the conference at Oberlin.

Hundreds are expected to attend from cities across the United States. Guests and participants are also coming from more than half a dozen countries.

The conference will open on Saturday afternoon, July 6. That evening, SWP national secretary Jack Barnes will give a feature presentation. His talk will assess the growing capitalist world disorder and sharpening competition between imperialist powers and the resistance this generates among workers and youth to the bosses' assault on wages, working conditions, and democratic rights. Barnes will also discuss the turning point for building the communist movement that the party campaign to oppose imperialist war preparations against Yugoslavia and Cuba at the beginning of this year marked.

Mary-Alice Waters, a long-time SWP leader and editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, will also give a major talk. Her presentation will focus on building a proletarian party through expanding sales of revolutionary books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder. A conference ex-

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350,000 protest austerity in Germany

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON
AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

BONN — Central Bonn was crowded June 15 with 350,000 demonstrators who had come from all over Germany to protest the "savings plan" put forward by the government of chancellor Helmut Kohl. The austerity plan includes lowering sick leave payments and family allowances, while raising the retirement age.

With whistles and drums, the protesters marched from different assembly points to the big park Hofgarten at the university, where workers and youth assembled for a rally. The demonstration was organized by the German union federation DGB, together with DAG, the public workers union. It was called months ago to coincide with debates and decisions in Bundestag, the German parliament, on the "savings plan."

"We have chartered a train for 800 people but we will fit 1,000 into it," said Otto Kollakowsky, a representative of metal workers union IG Metall at the Lloyd Werken shipyard in Bremerhafen. The facility is owned by the one of the biggest shipyard companies in Europe, Bremer Vulkan, that recently went bankrupt.

In Berlin, where the students are fighting the imposition of student fees, posters were up for the demonstration at Humboldt university and at the technical university.

In Hamburg a few days before the rally, student leader Alexander Jacob explained

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Elections in Russia reveal instability

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As instability in Russia deepens, President Boris Yeltsin and Communist Party chairman Gennady Zyuganov are bracing themselves for a head-to-head battle for the presidency in a second round of voting scheduled for July 10. Yeltsin, who received substantial backing from Washington and other imperialist powers, had boasted one week before the election, "Either I will win in the first round or I don't know my own people."

Yeltsin captured 35 percent of the vote, while Zyuganov finished second with 32 percent of the ballots cast in the June 16 election. Former general Aleksandr Lebed, a critic of the Chechnya war, placed third with 15 percent. U.S.-trained economist Grigory Yavlinsky received 7 percent, and ultrarightist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy won 6 percent.

U.S. president William Clinton said the elections in Russia were "a real credit" to Yeltsin. "Probably more than any other single person, he wanted Russia to be a free country, to pick its leaders by election."

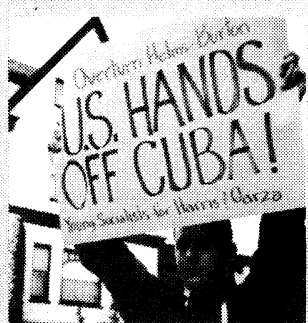
The *Economist*, which declared 18 months ago that Yeltsin was "the wrong man for the job" now calls him the "only man for Russia."

As Clinton and others in ruling-class

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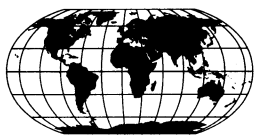
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Strikers protest McDonnell plan to hire scabs — page 11



Poland: Shipyard workers strike

At the Gdansk shipyard in Warsaw, workers called a two-day strike June 12 to protest government plans to close the facilities. They demanded back wages and called on the government to find a way to keep the yard open. The closing would put 7,300 employees out of work. The government is trying to begin bankruptcy proceedings as the yard's debt is estimated at \$140 million. Gdansk, which is 60 percent owned by the government and 40 percent owned by the workers, is the birthplace of the trade union Solidarity, which emerged as workers rose up against the bureaucratic Stalinist government in the 1980s. Former Polish president Lech Walesa, who led the worker's revolt at Gdansk, returned there recently, ostensibly to go back to work or force the new regime to give him a pension.

Caterpillar invests in N. Ireland

Caterpillar Inc. of Peoria, Illinois, and Emerson Electric Corp. of St. Louis, Missouri, announced June 12 a \$175 million investment to establish three new factories in Northern Ireland. Two of the new plants will open in predominantly Protestant neighborhoods, while the third, and by far the smallest, will be located in a Catholic area. At the beginning of June, a subsidiary of Emerson Electric, Copeland Corp., announced it will open a compressors manufacturing factory in Cookstown, a mixed Protestant-Catholic town. Male unemployment in these areas ranges between 40 and 80 percent. Some 11 percent of the workforce are unemployed in N. Ireland.

Ireland pro-divorce vote stands

On June 12, the Supreme Court in Ireland rejected overturning a referendum that ended the ban on divorce, which was approved last November by a 9,000-vote margin. The high court unanimously rejected a challenge by former senator Des Hanafin, leader of the anti-divorce campaign. The government, which supported the ending of the ban, announced it will introduce legislation this summer to make divorce available.

AIDS deaths may be 1.1 million

According to an United Nations report



Workers in Warsaw, Poland, protest on June 12 against shipyard closure that would throw 7,300 on streets.

released June 6, AIDS-related deaths are likely to reach 1.1 million this year. The report said there are 21 million adults infected with the HIV virus around the world, and the number of people with AIDS symptoms rose 25 percent last year. Ninety percent of those infected live in semicolonial countries where sanitary and medical conditions are at low levels, with 13.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone. These are the same countries that have recently suffered widespread outbreaks of preventable diseases, including meningitis, cholera, tuberculosis, and malaria.

U.S. gov't seeks Iran sanctions

The House Way and Means Committee approved a bill June 13 calling for U.S. re-

taliation against foreign companies that invest in Iran's oil industry. The measure, which is backed by Congress and the Clinton administration, would mandate the president to impose sanctions against any foreign company investing \$40 million or more in Iranian oil and gas development. Last year, president William Clinton barred U.S. companies from doing business with Iran, and has said he will sign this bill. One provision of the bill subjects foreign companies that invest in Iran to a range of U.S. sanctions, including exclusion of their products from the U.S. market.

The bill also seeks to stifle investments in Libya by imposing similar penalties on foreign companies doing business in that country. Many capitalist governments have already embraced the economic embargo against Libya, imposed by the United Nations Security Council allegedly to punish the government there for the bombing of a Pan Am flight.

UN barred from sites in Iraq

United Nations inspectors have been barred recently from entering certain Iraqi offices and buildings of ministries and security organizations. The UN team, set up after the 1991 U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people, was organized to search for banned chemical, nuclear and biological weapons and long-range missiles. Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz said a UN Security Council team of diplomats could visit, but without military escorts.

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright called Iraq's offer "ridiculous" and said that "blocking ... inspectors from an entire category of suspect sites ... is a matter of grave concern to my government." Chief UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus said that "Iraq has decided to raise the issue higher up than ever before." The UN Security Council approved a resolution demanding "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wished to inspect."

Cops chase immigrants

A van with more than 20 undocumented immigrant workers skidded off a highway near San Diego June 12, slamming into a gas station. One man died and twelve others were treated at hospitals. Just minutes earlier, U.S. Border Patrol agents had tried to stop the vehicle. After the crash, police arrested seven uninjured passengers of the van.

Rightist group surrenders to FBI

The rightist group Freemen surrendered to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on June 13, ending the 81-day standoff at an isolated ranch in Montana. Earlier in the day the Freemen took down their upside-down American flag and substituted it with a Confederate battle flag. Members of the group face an array of state and federal charges, ranging from financial fraud to threatening public officials. The FBI negotiated the surrender after bringing in armored vehicles and shutting off electricity from the ranch the group had occupied for months.

Racist baseball owner forced to retire for two seasons

Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, has agreed to give up control of the baseball team for two seasons. The decision came after an outcry from various groups over Schott's racist and anti-Semitic comments and her remarks that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was good in the beginning. The Major League Baseball executive council had given her an ultimatum to step down voluntarily or be suspended. Schott, who still owns the team, will not be involved in the day-to-day decisions of the club. Schott was previously suspended in 1993 for commonly using "coarse language that is racially and ethnically insensitive." The commission found at that time that she frequently used terms such as "dumb, lazy nigger," and "Jew bastards and dirty Jews."

Internet censorship halted

In a unanimous decision on June 12, a three-judge federal panel in Philadelphia declared unconstitutional key parts of new legislation intended to censor "indecent" material on Internet, blocking enforcement of the law. The ruling called government attempts to regulate the Internet's content, "profoundly repugnant," and an affront to the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech. It then granted a temporary restraining order that prohibits the Justice Department from enforcing, or even investigating, violations of the Communications Decency Act's ban on what it deems indecent and offensive speech on the Internet, the global computer network. The bill was approved overwhelmingly by Congress this year.

Radiation lawsuits dismissed

On June 10, a U.S. federal judge dismissed 2,100 cases filed by people who suffer from radioactive injuries from the 1979 nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. The cases varied from leukemia to other cancers among the plaintiffs. In January and April of this year, U.S. district court judge Sylvia Rambo excluded most of the plaintiff's witnesses in the case because they were considered "scientifically unreliable." Ten cases were due to be heard this month. But the judge in the case threw out these suits, and the remaining 2,000, saying the cases would be "an exercise in futility and a waste of valuable resources." — MEGAN ARNEY

THE MILITANT

Crisis in E. Europe, Russia is liability, not boon for imperialism

From East Germany to Poland and Russia, working people are resisting the effects of capitalist "market reforms," making it hard for imperialism and its lackeys in those countries to re-impose the system of exploitation of the toilers by a tiny propertied minority. The 'Militant' brings you the news every week. Don't miss a single issue!



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Landless peasants press for agrarian reform in Brazil

BY HILDA CUZCO

"We are preparing for the general strike called for June 21," said Carlos Bellé, a leader of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers (MST) in São Paulo, in a telephone interview June 13. The peasant organization has maintained close ties with the trade union movement and has linked its fight for land with demands for jobs and better working conditions — bringing the issue of agrarian reform in the forefront of politics in Brazil.

The strike, organized by the United Federation of Workers (CUT) with support of the other unions, calls for jobs, land, wage increases, and an end to the government's austerity drive. Metalworkers, public employees, and transportation workers are in the front ranks of the movement preparing the nationwide walkout. Peasants and agricultural workers are an integral part of the action as well.

The MST, founded in 1985, fights for the interests of 4.8 million landless peasants and rural workers. The movement demands above all that the government take over idle lands in big capitalist estates, with compensation to the owners, and distribute them to landless peasants. It organizes direct actions by thousands of toilers across rural Brazil

who occupy such lands and then demand official title from the government.

In its last convention, held in July of last year, the MST demanded that the government confiscate the biggest landed estates in each state. Delegates also demanded the government expropriate more than 1,200 "deadbeat" landlords who are the biggest debtors to the Bank of Brazil, and give this land to the peasants. The amount owed of 2.1 billion reais (\$2.2 billion) "would pay at current market levels for 2 million hectares of land that would accommodate more than 200,000 rural families in all the states of Brazil," said an MST document.

In Brazil, the largest country in South America, 1 percent of the landowners own 44 percent of the land. The 20 largest estates in the country control 15 million hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres), while big monopolies control another 30 million hectares of land. Out of the 400 million hectares of farmland only 60 million are cultivated, and most of it dedicated to lucrative export crops like coffee, cotton, soybeans, and fruits.



Sem Terra/Francisco Montejo

Conditions for peasants in most rural areas are much worse than urban areas. With a population of over 160 million, the life expectancy in Brazil is 60 years of age; in the northeast and rural zones it is 47 years. Infant mortality averages 116 per 1,000 births, and is more than double that in the northeast. Some 26 percent of the adult population lacks basic literacy; in rural areas the figure is 42 percent, while 8 million children are not in school and only 16 percent of those who start complete the basic level. Around 40 per-



Above, peasant woman cutting yuca to plant on land seized by Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) militants from wealthy landowners in Teodoro Sampaio, Brazil. The peasants subsequently won title to the land they occupied. Left, a protest action organized by the MST against a massacre that occurred in Eldorado, Brazil.

cent workers in Brazil earn less than the official minimum wage of \$80 per month, while 11 million workers are unemployed or underemployed.

The government's economic policies, designed to favor Brazil's capitalists, have aggravated the farm crisis. In the wake of the Mexican peso crisis in 1994, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso tried to stem the resulting capital flight by raising interest rates to record levels, threatening tens of thousands of farmers with bankruptcy.

In response to this crisis, scores of land takeovers have occurred throughout Brazil in recent years, particularly in the more heavily populated northeast and south. The tens of thousands involved in these occupations of big estates include agricultural workers, sharecroppers, tenant farmers, peasants subsisting on tiny plots, and unemployed workers.

Fierce repression

The fight for land has met fierce repression by the capitalist landlords using armed thugs and police to evict the peasants. The MST, however, is not backing off. The group has succeeded in organizing thousands of peasant families in *assentamentos* (settlements), meaning plots of occupied land with partial or complete government recognition. The occupied lands awaiting legalization are called *acampamentos* (squatter camps). "After the legalization of the occupied land, the settlements can grow basic crops that eventually will enable the families to sell some on the market," said Neuri Rosetto, coordinator of the MST in São Paulo.

Through the pressure of the peasants, the Cardoso administration had pledged to grant 27.5 million hectares to 280,000 families before the end of his term, in four years. After protests last year, Cardoso promised to give land to 40,000 peasant families by the end of 1995. Although the National Land Reform and Settlement Institute (INCRA) insists that at least 37,000 families have been granted land, leaders of the MST dispute the figure. "The 40,000 families have not been settled yet," said Francisco Lopes from the MST in Brasília. "There are no more than 10,000 with titles."

"The movement is concentrating in three key demands," said Rosetto, referring to the MST's participation in the June 21 strike. "The settlement of 37,000 families that are encamped awaiting official titles; the ap-

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Coalition gov't collapses in Turkey

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

ATHENS, Greece — The three-month-old coalition government of the Motherland and the True Path parties collapsed in Turkey June 6 after Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz resigned. Yilmaz stepped down in the face of a no-confidence motion put forward by Necmettin Erbakan's Refah (Welfare) party, which is described in the big-business media as the party of "Islamic fundamentalism."

The minority capitalist coalition government was put together in March to keep Refah (RP) from power after the party came in first in December's general election, capturing 158 of the total 550 seats in parliament. Both the Motherland Party (ANAP) and Tansu Ciller's True Path party (DYP) are posing as the defenders of secular Turkey. The fall of the bourgeois government in Turkey registered the crisis the rulers there face in their capacity to form a regime stable enough to impose further austerity measures on workers and farmers, and to continue their bloody war against Turkey's Kurdish population.

The insecurity felt by capitalist interests was registered by a sharp drop in Istanbul's stock exchange. "The only news is bad news," said Attila Yesilada of Global Securities. "But if we haven't reached the bottom we are probably very close to it." The Turkish lira fell to 78,340 against the dollar while average annual inflation is running at nearly 60 percent.

Since taking office, Yilmaz promised Turkey's capitalist families, the International Monetary Fund and imperialist banks which are pushing to collect Turkey's nearly \$74 billion foreign debt, that his government will squeeze working people further. He announced a package of austerity measures that included steep tax increases, cuts in health care, and the raising of the retirement age to 65 years for men and 60 for women. He vowed to continue the privatization of state owned industries such as the Turpas oil refinery, the pharmaceutical company Pefkim, and Turkish Airlines.

Half of Turkey's manufacturing industry and 60 percent of its financial sector are owned by the state. Since modern Turkey emerged from the ruins of the Ottoman empire in the 1920s, tobacco, oil, shipbuilding and other industries became state monopolies, protected by high tariffs and import bans until the 1970s.

Austerity measures similar to those Yilmaz tried to push through, were attempted by previous governments, including the one of Ciller. These attacks faced widespread resentment among working people and provoked strike mobilizations that eventually led to the downfall of her government last October.

On May Day, tens of thousands of work-



Kurdish guerrillas fighting for national self-determination in southeastern Turkey. Independence struggle and labor resistance to bosses' austerity is at root of Ankara's crisis.

ing people gathered at Kadikoy square in Istanbul to celebrate this international day of struggle and to protest Yilmaz's austerity attacks. The protest, which was declared illegal by the government, was organized by the General Workers Federation Turk Is, the illegal Federation of Public Workers, the Revolutionary Workers Union Federation DISK, and the labor federation Hak Is, which politically looks to Refah. The Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which is banned, also participated with its own banners. The police attacked the protest brutally, killing three people and wounding 45. The cops arrested some 220 unionists.

Kurds struggle for national rights

Turkey's capitalist rulers have also failed to stop the resistance of Kurds for their national rights, which is centered in the southeastern part of the country. This region is being ruled under "state of emergency" measures. Estimates of the Kurdish population range between 10 to 20 million among the country's 63 million people (no official census identifying Kurds is allowed).

Poverty and the war by Turkey's army have forced millions of Kurds from the countryside into the shantytowns around the big cities. Istanbul's population, for example, is growing by an estimated 400,000 people a year, many of them Kurds.

A report from the UN "Habitat Summit" held in Istanbul on June 6, said that "the migration has fostered a discontented and explosive population that is growing by the day in Turkey's major cities."

This growing discontent among Turkey's workers and peasants was registered in the growth of Erbakan's Welfare party. In scattered local elections held on June 3, the Refah gained 33.5 percent of the vote in 41 local polls across Turkey. It increased its vote by 3.5 percent over what it received in the same districts in the December general

elections at the expense of the ruling bourgeois coalition. The ANAP came in second with 21 percent, while the DYP trailed third with 12 percent.

Refah has presented itself as the voice of the poor in the ghettos of the cities and the impoverished peasants in the countryside. Leaders of the party oppose imperialist intervention in Arab countries. They denounced the recent massive bombing of Lebanon by the Zionist regime in Israel. The party's vice-

president Abdullah Gul said on June 9 that an RP government would cancel the recent five-year military cooperation agreement between Israel and Turkey, which was backed by Washington.

The governmental crisis was precipitated by charges of corruption brought against Ciller by Refah deputies. Motherland decided to support the corruption probes against its coalition partner. Ciller is accused of making millions for her personal coffers from sales of state-owned industries during the privatization campaign by her government. After the resignation of Yilmaz, Erbakan proclaimed victory. "By the end of June," he said, "the RP will form a government that will receive a vote of confidence." Erbakan called on both ANAP and DYP to participate in his new government.

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'No to INS raids!' says Garza at packinghouse

BY EMILY FITZSIMMONS

TOPPENISH, Washington — Cars lined up outside the Washington Beef meatpacking plant here June 10 to take literature in Spanish and English from supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign, who carried signs saying "Equal Rights for All Immigrants! No to INS Raids! Raise the Minimum Wage, Jobs for All!" The plant gate campaigning was part of a full day of activity in the Yakima Valley that kicked off a week-long tour of the Pacific Northwest by vice presidential candidate Laura Garza.

The Toppenish workers recently voted in the United Food and Commercial Workers. Garza and her supporters found the overwhelmingly Mexican workforce very receptive to the socialist campaign. Two car loads of workers stopped to talk to Garza and find out more about her campaign. They explained they had helped organize the union drive, and how immigration cops raided the plant the week before, arresting and deporting 19 workers. They told Garza that they wanted the socialist campaigners to return for more discussion about the Socialist Workers program.

The socialist candidate was interviewed by the *Yakima Herald*, which ran a prominent article the next day, and on the Spanish-language radio station KDNA.

Later that evening, three members of the Chicano student group MEChA met Garza for dinner and discussed their recent victory at Yakima Valley Community College, where they won a Chicano Studies department. One of them, Sara Carrion, is helping organize for the national immigrant rights march in Washington, D.C., on October 12. All of the students took information on the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange.

The following day Garza and Jeff Powers, the SWP candidate for governor of Washington, campaigned with six volun-

teers at the huge Seattle ship repair facility, Todd Shipyard. A number of workers stopped to talk to the socialists, several signed a petition to put the candidates on the ballot, and three bought subscriptions to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*. While in Seattle, Garza was interviewed by two major local dailies, the *Everett Herald*, and the *Seattle Times*.

Garza wrapped up her tour with a campaign rally held at the Pathfinder Bookstore which was attended by 40 people. At the event, supporters of the socialist campaign went over the top on their \$5,000 local financial goal.

The rally featured speeches by Garza and Powers as well as talks by Amadee Weld and Jacob Gavin, members of the Young Socialists in Seattle and Vancouver respectively. The event was chaired by Melissa Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 7th C.D.

Weld described the week's events and urged young people to join the campaign as Young Socialists for Harris and Garza "to hook up with fighters and unite against a common enemy — capitalism."

Gavin explained that the socialist candidate had spent a day campaigning in Canada because she "recognized the working class was strengthened by linking up with workers from other countries."

In her talk, Garza noted that supporters of her campaign spent part of that day at an anti-Klan rally in Auburn, Washington, which had been organized when an article about Klan recruitment appeared in the morning paper. Fifty people attended the event. "These are the ones we are trying to reach with our campaign," Garza said. "People who don't care if they are the only ones who come out. People who want to fight."

The vice presidential candidate explained



Militant/Jeff Powers

Vice presidential candidate Laura Garza campaigning at Toppenish, Washington, plant.

that the recent wave of arson attacks on Black churches in the South was a "serious crime" that requires a nationwide response. "What took the cops and federal marshals so long to act and why have they been targeting Black parishioners in their investigations?" Garza said.

Garza said that "the socialist campaign demands that the federal government post marshals to not allow one more church to be burned."

The Socialist Workers Party campaign plans to return to the Yakima Valley next weekend to sell literature and petition to put the candidates on the ballot.

BY MEG NOVAK

ST. LOUIS — James Harris traveled here in mid-June to offer solidarity and bring the Socialist Workers campaign to the 6,700 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) on strike against McDonnell Douglas. Campaign supporters attended a solidarity picnic at the IAM District 837 union hall June 16, where they invited striking workers to attend a meeting with Harris the next night.

Young Socialist Tom Alter and another campaign supporter also met with three St. Louis youth interested in the socialist campaign. One of them bought two subscriptions to the *Militant*, one for himself and one for his brother in Zimbabwe.

The socialist candidate for U.S. president visited the union hall June 17 to speak with strikers going to and from picket duty. Harris pledged his support to the unionists. "This kind of attack against workers is happening in every capitalist country," Harris said to one striker. "My campaign stresses the importance of working people uniting worldwide to fight for our demands."

Harris spoke to an audience of 20 people later that night at a downtown restaurant.

While in St. Louis, the socialist candidate was interviewed by KMOX radio, the main AM news station, and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

Earlier in the week, Harris toured central Illinois, beginning with a plant gate stop at Caterpillar's Mapleton foundry just outside Peoria. Supporters distributed campaign literature to United Auto Workers members there during their shift change.

The next morning, Harris spoke at a news conference outside of the Federal Building in Peoria where he introduced Angel Lariscy, who announced her campaign as the socialist candidate for U.S. Congress from the 18th congressional district. The news conference was covered by WMBD-TV, a CBS affiliate in Peoria.

Emily Fitzsimmons is a member of United Transportation Union Local 845. Meg Novak is a member of United Paperworkers International Union in Peoria.

UAW workers give boost to fund

BY WILLIE REID

ATLANTA — Socialists who are members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union increased their pledges to the Socialist Workers Party 1996 national campaign fund by nearly \$2,500 at a meeting here, June 15-16. The trade unionists had gathered to discuss how to advance the socialist alternative today, putting the sales of communist books and defense of Cuba's revolution at the center of their political work on the job. In addition to raising their own pledges, in some cases doubling them, the socialist workers also plan to ask their co-workers for contributions to the campaign

fund.

This approach by the UAW members gives a needed boost to the campaign that can be emulated by others. With two weeks left in the drive, \$40,770 has been sent toward the \$90,000 goal.

"We find our co-workers are interested in listening to what the socialist candidates have to say," explained Susan Anmuth, who works at the Ford assembly plant in Edison, New Jersey. She and Bob Miller had organized a meeting for SWP presidential candidate James Harris at a pizza place near the factory. Twelve other UAW members came to discuss topics ranging from the capitalist economic crisis to racism to the place of the Cuban revolution in the world.

Salm Kolis and Linda Joyce reported a similar response at the Ford assembly plant where they work in Atlanta. Several of their co-workers joined them in meeting SWP vice presidential candidate Laura Garza when she visited their work site. The stance taken by these workers, Joyce explained, was particularly important because "there has been some harassment of socialist campaign supporters inside the plant."

The impact of the response by other workers and youth, and a successful one-week tour by Garza, which ended with a rally attended by 24 people on June 8, led campaign backers in Atlanta to confidently make plans to surpass their goal of \$2,000.

After staying on schedule in the course of the fund drive, supporters in Philadelphia have just increased their goal to \$4,700. "But we also expect to exceed this new goal," said Jon Teitelbaum, who organizes the effort there.

In order to complete the fund campaign in full and on time, a special effort will be required in the next two weeks to reach out to supporters as broadly as possible.

The response by workers and young activists seeking for an alternative to the parties of war, racism and economic depression, and coverage like the interview with James Harris in the Bergen, New Jersey, *Record* (reproduced on page 6) are but a slight scratch in the political surface which the campaign can mine even more with a successful financial drive.

Contribute to the Socialist Workers \$90,000 1996 Campaign Fund

	Goal	Paid	Percent
Atlanta	2,000	1,602	80%
Philadelphia	4,700	3,752	80%
Detroit	3,500	2,645	76%
Newark	5,000	3,149	63%
Houston	2,000	1,225	61%
Miami	2,000	1,165	58%
Pittsburgh	5,000	2,900	58%
Seattle	5,000	2,875	58%
Twin Cities	5,000	2,701	54%
Morgantown	500	250	50%
Boston	3,500	1,675	48%
Greensboro	1,500	690	46%
Brooklyn	7,000	3,070	44%
Peoria	1,200	510	43%
Salt Lake City	2,000	825	41%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	800	40%
San Francisco	10,000	3,921	39%
Los Angeles	8,000	2,827	35%
Des Moines	600	211	35%
Birmingham	3,200	1,098	34%
Chicago	5,000	1,240	25%
New York	7,000	1,611	23%
Cleveland	1,200	30	3%
Other		1,060	
Total	86,900	40,773	47%
Should be	90,000	72,000	80%

March: defend affirmative action

BY SUSAN ZÁRATE

MERCED, California — Forty marchers arrived here June 15, as a part of a 750-mile march through the state organized to defeat the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) and register people to vote. The march began June 3 in Sacramento, with 150 participating. CCRI is a ballot referendum that would prohibit affirmative action programs in employment, education, and contract work for the state.

At the rally site in Merced, the marchers and their supporter held a statewide meeting to plan the rest of their journey, which will continue through to San Diego arriving in time for the Republican Party Convention in August. The marchers told stories of the many supporters who came out to greet them on the road with water, burritos, sandwiches, and to walk with them for awhile. The majority of marchers are Chicano students from across the state. There are 10 students who plan to walk the entire 750 miles.

Sylvia Romo-Lara from Mesa College in San Diego and a member of the central plan-

ning committee, said that while they register people to vote they also ask them to sign pledge cards to vote against the CCRI bill in November. "This work has to be done and we think the spirit of our march will motivate others into action. We have to stop the snowball effect of Prop. 187," an anti-immigrant referendum passed in 1994, "and now CCRI. If you don't do something now it will get worse."

The March For Social and Economic Justice has been endorsed by more than 25 local and statewide organizations, including the Chicano Student Movement of Atzlan (MEChA), Feminist Majority, Mexican American Legal and Educational Fund, National Organization for Women, United Farm Workers, and others. For information on the March, daily activities, and how you can support the action call (888) 609-1907.

Susan Zárate is a member of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers union and candidate for San Francisco Board of Supervisors supported by the Socialist Workers Party.

Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Union/School/Organization _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009
 Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

BY SARA LOBMAN

With supporters of Mark Curtis beginning the fight to defend the democratic rights of the unionist and socialist *outside* of prison, the Pathfinder pamphlet *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* should get a good workout in coming weeks. The pamphlet, which is available in Spanish and French as well as English, tells the story of how Curtis was framed up for his political activity in defense of immigrant workers, and the international campaign in his defense. Curtis was just paroled to Illinois after serving nearly eight years in Iowa prisons. Alongside this issue of the *Militant*, which features Curtis's release, *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* will be an invaluable aid in winning support for the next stage of this fight.

The chart below gives the final figures in the campaign to sell subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. As readers can see, we fell short of our goals, winning 895 new readers to the *Militant*, 282 new readers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and selling 346 copies of *New Internationalist*, out of goals of 1,100, 350, and 400 respectively. Participants in the July 6-9 socialist conference in Ohio (see article on front page) will be able to evaluate the campaign. The ongoing campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets stands at 621 of the monthly goal of 1,800 sold through Pathfinder bookstores in the United States.

The last week of the drive did see a marked increase in sales, with more than 700 units sold as socialist workers and others responded to political events by introducing working people and youth to the revolutionary books and periodicals. Below are a small sampling from the reports that were sent in, which readers may find useful in mapping out plans for continued sales of the socialist publications.

"We made it!" Floyd Fowler reports from Atlanta. Supporters in Atlanta join those in London and Miami in making their circulation goals and being on schedule in the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets. "A sale at a local apartment complex netted several subscriptions and a *New Internationalist* to immigrant workers from Bosnia and India. And a subscription and a *New Internationalist* sold to workers at the Ford assembly plant here put us over the top," Fowler added.

A young socialist from Akureyri, Iceland, joined the socialist sales team in Reykjavik (some 300 miles away) for the final weekend of the sales campaign. Despite rain and soggy papers, two subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold off a literature table. The preceding week, a team from Reykjavik had joined a group of young socialists in Akureyri for sales and discussions on the recent trade union congress in Cuba. One copy each of Che Guevara's *Bolivian Diary* and the new Icelandic edition of *Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War* were sold, in addition to three subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Several papers had already been sold from a socialist literature table set up in busy shopping center in Manchester, England, when a large bomb exploded nearby, injuring more than 200 people and covering the table with black dust. The

June 18: 31%
Should be: 53%

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books

Countries/Cities	Through Pathfinder Bookstores			To Commercial Distributors			Total			Readers Club
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	
AUSTRALIA	36	22	61%		5		36	27	75%	31
CANADA										
Montreal	72	41	57%	64	0	0%	136	41	30%	37
Toronto	90	35	39%	70	0	0%	160	35	22%	56
Vancouver	36	8	22%	28	1	4%	64	9	14%	56
Total	198	84	38%	162	1	1%	360	85	27%	149
Goal/Should be	220	117	53%	92	49	53%	312	165	53%	
NEW ZEALAND										
Auckland	65	28	43%				65	28	43%	39
Christchurch	28	12	43%				28	12	43%	13
Total	93	40	43%				93	40	43%	52
SWEDEN										
Stockholm*	40	0	0%	60	0	0%	100	0	0%	
UNITED KINGDOM										
London	95	99	104%	98	62	63%	193	161	83%	89
Manchester	46	8	17%	65	31	48%	111	39	35%	0
Sheffield*	14	0	0%	20	0	0%	34	0	0%	0
Total	155	107	69%	183	93	51%	338	200	59%	89
UNITED STATES										
Des Moines*	45	16	36%	35	98	280%	80	114	143%	21
Miami*	55	19	35%	42	60	143%	97	79	81%	27
Atlanta	48	36	75%	32	11	34%	80	47	59%	39
Boston	65	23	35%	50	41	82%	115	64	56%	41
Cleveland	50	46	92%	40	0	0%	90	46	51%	17
Washington, D.C.	54	47	87%	42	2	5%	96	49	51%	33
Philadelphia	63	13	21%	49	40	82%	112	53	47%	41
Los Angeles	120	64	53%	95	27	28%	215	91	42%	72
Salt Lake City	50	20	40%	40	17	43%	90	37	41%	40
Detroit	77	43	56%	60	0	0%	137	43	31%	46
Peoria	27	12	44%	21	3	14%	48	15	31%	18
Greensboro	41	20	49%	36	0	0%	77	20	26%	36
Brooklyn	165	59	36%	130	8	6%	295	67	23%	73
Twin Cities	86	34	40%	67	0	0%	153	34	22%	57
New York	175	54	31%	175	22	13%	350	76	22%	77
San Francisco	95	35	37%	74	1	1%	169	36	21%	72
Houston	45	11	24%	32	0	0%	77	11	14%	35
Chicago*	77	14	18%	60	2	3%	137	16	12%	8
Birmingham	65	13	20%	50	0	0%	115	13	11%	54
Seattle*	80	0	0%	60	15	25%	140	15	11%	61
Pittsburgh	63	10	16%	49	0	0%	112	10	9%	32
Newark	171	27	16%	133	0	0%	304	27	9%	97
Morgantown*	32	5	16%	25	0	0%	57	5	9%	19
Total	1749	621	35%	1397	347	25%	3146	968	31%	1016
Goal/Should be	1800	954	53%	1400	742	53%	3200	1696	53%	

* no new report

Militant Subscription Drive MAY 11 — JUNE 16, 1996 FINAL SCOREBOARD

Countries/Cities	Militant			PM			NI		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
Australia	10	10	100%	3	4		5	5	
Canada									
Vancouver	20	20	100%	3	4		10	10	
Toronto	45	21	47%	10	10		20	25	
Montreal	25	14	56%	8	2		35	36	
Total	90	55	50%	21	14		65	71	
France	5	5	100%	5	2		10	10	
Greece	3	0	0%				3	1	
Iceland	10	7	70%	0	0		10	7	
New Zealand									
Christchurch	12	13	108%	1	0		3	4	
Auckland	30	34	113%	2	2		4	5	
Total	42	47	112%	3	2		7	9	
Sweden	10	13	130%	8	6		6	13	
United Kingdom									
London	20	21	105%	5	10		20	13	
Manchester	26	12	46%	2	2		15	11	
Sheffield		4			1			0	
Total	46	37	80%	7	13		35	24	
United States									
San Francisco	60	66	110%	20	22		40	23	
Washington, DC	30	32	107%	10	10		10	10	
Greensboro, NC	30	31	103%	5	6		5	6	
Seattle	50	51	102%	10	8		15	4	
Los Angeles	60	61	102%	30	39		30	34	
Atlanta	27	27	100%	10	11		8	8	
Detroit	50	50	100%	8	8		15	15	
Miami	35	35	100%	15	10		15	11	
Twin Cities, MN	55	55	100%	20	20		20	14	
Salt Lake City	42	42	100%	12	13		21	8	
Chicago	40	31	78%	20	15		12	11	
Cleveland	20	15	75%	6	4		5	2	
Houston	30	22	73%	10	2		8	0	
Philadelphia	40	29	73%	10	7		12	5	
Birmingham, AL	35	22	63%	7	3		20	10	
Pittsburgh	40	25	63%	5	4		10	5	
New York	70	41	59%	40	18		35	18	
Boston	40	20	50%	10	2		20	10	
Des Moines	30	15	50%	20	12		15	0	
Brooklyn	75	37	49%	35	13		35	10	
Peoria, IL	15	5	33%	2	1		5	3	
Newark, NJ	80	23	29%	30	15		30	9	
Morgantown, WV	21	3	14%	1	0		6	0	
Cincinnati		3							
Total U.S.	975	741	76%	336	243		392	216	
International Totals	1171	895	81%	380	282		523	346	

IN THE UNIONS

Canada									
IAM	10	5	50%	3	0		6	6	
New Zealand									
Meat Workers	4	5	125%						
United Food & Bev.	4	2	50%						
Engineers Union	7	3	43%						
NZ Total	15	10	67%						
United States									
UMWA	5	5	100%	0	0		5	3	
UNITE	25	16	64%	11	8		11	6	
UFCW	5	3	60%	7	3		7	0	
OCAW	35	18	51%	0	1		10	3	
IAM	56	27	48%	16	4		26	2	
UAW	75	33	44%	15	3		35	15	
USWA	45	17	38%	5	3		35	6	
UTU	60	12	20%	5	0		30	8	
U.S. Total	306	131	43%	59	22		159	43	
International Totals	331	146	26%	62	22		160	46	



Militant/Linda Joyce

Campaigning and selling socialist literature in Atlanta

table included placards calling for British troops to get out of Ireland. "I don't like to see people killed, but they should be talking to Sinn Fein now," said one man who stopped to talk after the explosion. Several copies of the *Militant* were sold before the police extended their cordon of the area, shutting down both the table and the Pathfinder bookshop. One woman asked the socialists to come by her house to continue the discussion and so she could buy a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the *New Internationalist*.

An international team of socialist workers from Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States spent five days in Germany participating in protests against government attacks on social se-

curity, health care, pensions, and education. The team sold \$360 worth of Pathfinder books, 5 *Militant* subscriptions and 69 single copies of the paper, 2 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 7 copies of *New Internationalist* at tables set up at demonstrations, college campuses, and plant gates. They also got orders for 37 books from two commercial bookstores.

"You guys tell the truth about the strike; you don't twist and chop up what we say," one of the 6,700 striking machinists at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis said as he signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. A team of socialists from across the United States has been in St. Louis since the strike began, participating in various strike activities. So far, 20 strikers have subscribed to the paper.

Some 35 people, including students from the La Raza Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota, participated in a Militant Labor Forum featuring Olga Rodríguez, the editor of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*.

Following a lively discussion, six copies of the book were sold, as well as a new membership to the Pathfinder Readers Club and a subscription to the *Militant*. Supporters in Minnesota have sold 15 copies of *The*

Pathfinder books sold to Co-workers

Unions	Goal	Sold	% sold	Readers Club
Canada				
IAM*	13	1	8%	3
United Kingdom				
TGWU	7	3	43%	0
AEU*	10	2	20%	1
RMT*	0	0	0%	1
UK Total	17	5	29%	2
United States				
UMWA	5	3	60%	7
UAW*	100	25	25%	49
USWA	58	11	19%	13
OCAW	48	9	19%	27
UTU	85	12	14%	40
UFCW*	6	0	0%	0
UNITE*	42	0	0%	7
IAM *	71	0	0%	19
Total	415	60	19%	162
Goal/Should be	400	212	53%	

* No new report
IAM—International Association of Machinists; OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

Politics of Chicano Liberation since it was reissued in January.

Twin Cities participants in the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Youth exchange are also finding the socialist publications useful. Eight of the activists have purchased new subscriptions to the *Militant*, two renewed their subscriptions, and another bought an introductory subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Participants have also bought eight copies of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* and two of *Bolivian Diary*, both by Ernesto Che Guevara, two copies of *The Second Declaration of Havana*, and a copy of *How Far We Slaves Have Come*, with speeches by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela.

Socialists campaign for immigrant rights

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — At factory shift changes, on sidewalk and campus literature tables, in discussions with fellow unionists, and at political meetings, socialist candidates here have made defense of immigrant rights a top priority of their election campaign.

This focus is driven by the impact of a May 22 Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raid on Northern Star Co., a potato processing plant in the heart of the Twin Cities, where 50 predominantly Mexican workers were seized by the INS agents and deported. An additional 20 workers, handcuffed by the INS after a raid in a suburban St. Paul plastics plant, were also deported the same day.

The jolt of the raids, and the looming imposition of the newest provisions of congressional anti-immigrant legislation have motivated immigrant rights advocates to call for public protests. The bipartisan measures passed in the House and Senate are to be resolved by a joint committee of members from both chambers before a final bill is sent

for approval by President Clinton.

This was the main discussion at a larger than usual monthly meeting in St. Paul of the Immigration Task Force of the Urban Coalition, on June 10. Representatives from nearly 20 immigrant rights, Latino, religious, and other groups attended the gathering. A representative of the Asian and Pacific Island Committee described INS efforts to deport seven young Vietnamese for "juvenile delinquency."

"The most important thing about Northern Star," Tom Fiske said at the meeting, urging action in defense of the undocumented "is that most of the workers there repudiate the raid, are in solidarity with those deported, and want to do something to protest this attack on their dignity." Fiske is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota.

The group decided to call a speak-out in defense of immigrant rights. A June 14 Urban Coalition mailing noted it was altering its routine, organizing a "special meeting" to call the protest. The forum will "educate people about what really happens during a

raid, "help immigrants know their rights," and "affirm the democratic and human rights of immigrants," the mailing stated. The upcoming meeting will set the date for the speak out.

Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters have been campaigning weekly at the Teamster organized Northern Star. One Chicano worker told Fiske that the INS insisted on dragging him to a national guard armory holding pen, as he told them he was U.S. born.

Doug Nelson, the SWP candidate for Minnesota State Assembly, handed out campaign statements on May 31, amidst a crowd of campaign supporters, as dozens of workers stopped to talk with him, Fiske, and SWP congressional candidate Jenny Benton. Nelson, 22, and a member of the Young Socialists, was photographed in action for a major article on the 1996 elections featuring him, and several other candidates, scheduled to appear in the September issue of *Modern Maturity*, published by the American Association of Retired People, with a circulation of 23 million.

Benton, an assembler at Eaton, Inc., and a member of the International Association of Machinists, campaigned at a June 1 immigrants rights meeting of 100 people, mostly Vietnamese and Somali.

"It's not very well known," Nancy Peterson, a lawyer for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, said in an interview at that meeting, "but under provisions of the 'Oklahoma City' anti-terrorism bill, legal resident immigrants can be deported for committing a crime with a weapon, involving drugs, or for 'moral turpitude,' which a judge could say is stealing food."

Under that new law, she said, legal agencies that receive any federal funds are "forbidden to defend anyone in this country 'illegally.' We're now cut off from our clients."

Several immigrant rights advocates said they've been told by the INS there will be more raids in Minnesota this summer. "Last week," one said, "a worker was called by his plant in Northfield, and asked to come in to work his day off, for time and a half. He came in, and there was the INS, waiting for him."

from the pages of *The Record*...

The article below appeared in the June 11 issue of *The Record*, a daily published in Hackensack, New Jersey.

THE SOCIALISTS' CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

Campaigning against capitalism

By THOMAS J. FITZGERALD

Staff Writer

The usual script for beginning an American presidential campaign calls for the candidate to return to his roots for an emotional speech from a platform draped in red, white, and blue.

James Harris went to Cuba. "It's different, but I'll take this campaign anywhere in the world," Harris said during a campaign foray into New Jersey on Monday. "The solutions to our economic crisis are international, not national; Cuba is an example that should be discussed among workers everywhere."

Harris is probably the only presidential candidate this year who marched in a May Day parade in Havana with trade unionists from the Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, and probably the only one who really means it when he calls for a "revolution" in his stump speeches.

In a year marked politically by economic unease, Harris is hoping to cash in on workers' angst as the presidential nominee of the Socialist Workers Party.

When he speaks of the crisis of capitalism, of corporate layoffs and stagnant wages, of the powerlessness of workers, Harris — a 48-year-old meatpacker from Atlanta — seems to be coming from the place where the political spectrum bends back on itself and the left meets the right.

At first blush, he sounds like Pat Buchanan, who made a splash in the Republican primaries with his class-based call to angry workers to sweep the elites from power in a revolt of "peasants with pitchforks." Buchanan also railed against immigration and multinational corporations moving operations overseas, depressing American wages and eliminating jobs.

Harris doesn't buy the comparison.

"Buchanan is a fascist," he said. "He's tapping into workers' fears and frustrations, to get them to blame immigrants, Jews, and minorities for their problems. This is done to deflect anger from who the real enemies are."

Harris took a break from his New Jersey campaigning — which included a visit to a Ford plant in Edison and a rally at party headquarters in Newark — to talk about the sometimes lonely crusade of a party that ranks as one of the biggest underdogs in American politics.

After all, revolutionary politics has not enjoyed a broad-based following in this country, at least not



James Harris, who is running for president as the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, visited New Jersey on Monday.

since the New Deal rescued capitalism from the Great Depression. And conventional wisdom holds that socialism has been thoroughly discredited in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union and the eastern bloc.

But Harris is here to say it's not so. The Soviet Union and its satellites were never truly socialist, he says. The revolution was hijacked by Stalin and the party clique that ruled after him.

In the true socialist perspective, workers are in trouble because the international capitalist system is over-producing goods and services, depressing profits and exerting downward pressure on wages and the number of jobs. The only solution, Harris said, is to abolish capitalism and have a socialist government of workers and farmers control the economy.

He acknowledged that the socialist economic philosophy is a decidedly minority view in this country.

"We don't say everyone is going to agree with us," Harris said. "What we're driving for is a civil discussion of ideas. If you disagree with us, we'll come back six months later and try again. Maybe you'll look at it differently when you are on strike or laid off."

Harris said he began looking at politics differently when he got involved in the civil rights movement. In the early 1960s, he took part in a school strike in his native Cleveland to protest the treatment of black children. He became a socialist protesting the Vietnam War, a commitment that deepened when he spent three months harvesting sugar cane in Cuba in 1969.

He had to quit his job at a Hormel meat packing plant in Atlanta to campaign for president after winning nomination by the party's central committee in March. In addition to his long political activism, Harris also has been an autoworker in Detroit and in Edison.

Although the Socialist Workers Party does not like to give out membership information, a perhaps understandable reaction to the time when it was spied upon by the government, party spokesmen said there are about 500 dues-paying members nationwide, and roughly 40 in New Jersey — with an uncounted number of sympathizers.

In New Jersey, the party is running congressional candidates in the

6th District in Middlesex County, in the 10th District in Essex County, and in the 13th District in Hudson County. "We'd like to run more, but we're just not big enough," said Rich Ariza, a party member from Newark. "You grab your strength where you can."

This year, the voters might have a more "third party" alternatives to the Democrats and Republicans than usual. Ross Perot's Reform Party promises to be on the ballot in all 50 states, with either the cranky billionaire himself or former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm as presidential nominee. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is running on the Green Party line.

And then there's Harris. Unlike other minor party candidates, he does not voice the brave fiction that he has a chance of winning the White House.

"Our campaign is not about winning votes or political office," Harris said. "That's not how political change is made. Those are illusions. Change is made by movements of people, struggling and ultimately seizing political power. Politics is decided in the streets."

Elections in Russia

Continued from front page

circles slapped Yeltsin on the back with congratulations, London's *Financial Times* warned "he will have to work hard" for victory. "Investors are unlikely to stampede into the market on a slim two-point advantage," said Christopher Granville, an official at the Moscow-based United City Bank.

Both front-runners began almost immediately wooing Lebed for political support. Yeltsin dismissed his longtime defense minister Pavel Grachev June 18, after meeting with the former general the day before. The *New York Times* said Lebed "was offered a senior post in the government in charge of security." Lebed, whose military record included the violent repression of popular uprisings in Georgia and elsewhere, rebuffed Zyuganov. "He can offer me whatever he wants," Lebed said of Zyuganov. "We're through with Communism."

Yeltsin moved "to exploit shamelessly the power of the incumbency," wrote the *Economist*. Two days before the elections, the Russian president gave a rare fourth star to the air defense and strategic missiles commanders as well as the military chiefs in the army, navy, and air force. In May he issued decrees to reduce the military obligation of soldiers fighting in the Chechnya war zone, phase out military conscription, and set up a professional army in four years.

Wave of discontent

On June 6, Yeltsin ordered Russia's Central Bank to transfer \$1 billion to the federal budget to fulfill campaign pledges to pay teachers, doctors, and the military. Russia's estimated 1.5 to 1.7 million troops endure a shortage of funds, arms and even clothes. According to the *Financial Times*, some soldiers in the Far East starved this winter. Yeltsin received a barrage of news coverage when he presented his official campaign program in the city of Perm May 31. He promised to increase pensions and provide free public transportation to the elderly during a campaign stop there.

Zyuganov has coasted on a wave of dis-

content. "We see that farmers are being finished off," he said charging that Yeltsin's policies are aimed at killing off peasants.

"We can barely make ends meet, even though we have a small plot of land and work hard," said Irina Gorda, who works with her husband on a collective farm in Borgustanky. Collective farms make up some 95 percent of the region's crop land, on par with national statistics.

"I'll be frank. It's the economic situation that has created Zyuganov," Vladislav Yurchik, a member of the Communist Party in parliament, told the *Washington Post*. Yurchik organized Zyuganov's campaign in Krasnoyarsk. "This [support for Zyuganov] is not an expression of love. It's an act of economic desperation."

Millions of working people are not receiving their wages. Unpaid coal miners in Vladivostok — in Russia's Far East near the border with North Korea and China — are holding weekly protests in front of a monument to Soviet fighters killed during the 1918-20 civil war, when Washington dispatched 7,000 troops to Siberia to try to crush the revolutionary government. "The coal miners in Partizansk have no electricity, no salaries, and their families are starving," said Marina Loboda, a columnist for the pro-Yeltsin Russian daily *Vladivostok*.

Living conditions continue to plummet for Russian workers and peasants. Some 36 million of pensioners, jobless workers, and peasants live on less than the official subsistence income of \$68 a month. This figure represents 24 percent of the country's 153 million people. Life expectancy for



Unpaid coal miners in Vladivostok, Russia, hold rally demanding back wages.

males — 57 years — is lower than any other industrial country. This year the death rate is almost twice as high as the birth rate, a condition comparable only to nations that have experienced famines or major wars.

Meanwhile, disparity in incomes has grown. The richest 10 percent of Russians are earning 13.5 times as much as the poorest 10 percent. Prior to 1990, this figure stood at 4 to 1. The gross domestic product per person in 1995 was \$2,450, a tenth of Belgium and half of Hungary's.

Capital continues to trickle into Russia, but many investors are holding off on decisions until after the elections. If "Zyuganov wins," noted the *Wall Street Journal*, "there could be tumult in the bond and currency

markets."

On June 15 Russian troops launched mortar shells on Grozny, the capital city of Chechnya, as war there continued. Russian officials signed an agreement with the Chechen fighters June 10 that called for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the thousands of Russian soldiers from Chechnya by the end of August. The pact also stipulated that the June 16 elections for a regional legislature be postponed until after the military pullout. The elections were held and many Chechens boycotted them.

"How can we have elections when people are getting hurt every day and the war hasn't ended?" asked Tamara Magomedova, who lives in Grozny. "It's the biggest stupidity."

350,000 protest austerity in Bonn

Continued from front page

that three buses had been chartered to go to Bonn. Since more students were signing up to go, he was organizing a fourth bus. The proposed new system for student loans and grants has sparked a protest movement at that university, since it will drastically cut the number of students in higher education.

Some 40,000 people demanding equal rights for Kurds demonstrated in Hamburg on June 15. Armin Dümmel and his workmates at an auto parts plant near Stuttgart, carried a banner that read, "30 hours workweek with no cut in pay." He explained, "Just think how many jobs would be available if the workweek was reduced to 30 hours on an international scale. The unions should fight for that demand now."

"Say no to the government's plans. Let us instead together try to reform our welfare state," DGB-leader Dieter Schulte said speaking to the rally. He demanded the government take up talks about the "alliance for jobs," a concession offer Schulte has made to the government since late last year. "The alliance for jobs is not dead. We need new ideas to create jobs. We are prepared to compromise," he said.

"Yes it will be a hot summer. This demonstration is only the beginning," said Horst Dotten, a metalworker at the Widia Fabrik in Essen. He mentioned that one of his co-

workers went to Paris for a demonstration on December 12 last year. Another worker said, "I hope the government will change its mind after this demonstration. I do not want to go on strike."

The day before the rally Kohl said, "Our program for growth and employment will be imposed. I am completely sure of that. I am not impressed by how many people will come to the demonstration in Bonn."

Workers had a range of views on what the problem was. "It is all because of the reunification," said two metal workers. "It is being paid for with our money."

An electrician from eastern Germany said that he managed to get a job in the west. "But I got laid off. I am still unemployed after several years, in spite of going through a two-year course to improve my skills. So here I am now at this demonstration."

Several banners and placards called for a general strike. Hans, a member of the employer and employee committee at GM/Opel in Bochum, distributed a leaflet from a group of metal workers union members there. It challenged the assertion by representatives of the government and employers, that a general strike is unconstitutional. "Otherwise they will not understand. A demonstration will not force them to change their minds," he said. "I really hope it will be a

hot summer."

One part of the "savings plan" is a wage freeze for public workers, hundreds of thousands of whom have been on rolling warning strikes for weeks. A mediation commission was set up three weeks ago. On June 14, the day before the big demonstration in Bonn, the commission went public with a proposal for a lump sum of 300 deutsch marks (1DM=US\$0.66) for 1996 and a wage increase of 1.3 percent in 1997. The reduction of the sick leave payments from 100 to 80 percent as well as a lengthening of the workweek and reduction of the extra Christmas payments, which the employers had demanded, were not included in the proposal. The public workers in the east would get 85 percent of the wages in the west, but not until Sept. 1, 1997.

Public workers union ÖTV's chairman Herbert Mai called the proposed agreement "defendable." Minister of the Interior Manfred Kanther said the employers of the republic, the states, and local governments should be prepared to accept the proposal. It would be "a sign of reason," he said.

State gov'ts resist proposals

Earlier in the week Kurt Biedenkopf, the state president in Saxonia in eastern Germany, had stated it might be necessary to leave the central organization for public employers if the contract included any raise. Increased wage parity with western states will mean increased expenses for the state budgets in eastern Germany. Other representatives of the employers have raised the idea of less centralized contract agreements.

On June 14, banks in Berlin and other cities were closed by warning strikes as negotiations on a new contract for bank employees dragged on.

At a debate that day in the German parliament, Finance Minister Waigel criticized the Social Democratic Party (SPD) for not cooperating on the austerity measures. He pointed out that the social democrats in Sweden, Finland, Austria, and the Netherlands have supported far-reaching austerity measures and demanded that the SDP do the same. The social democratic party in Germany opposes the government's proposals of cuts and tax reductions, but SPD-president Oskar Lafontaine told parliament he favors "harsh savings" and hinted that public wages linked to productivity and more part-time work would lower the high costs for wages for the different states.

Carl-Erik Isacsson and Catharina Tirsén are members of the Metal Workers Union in Södertälje and Stockholm respectively.

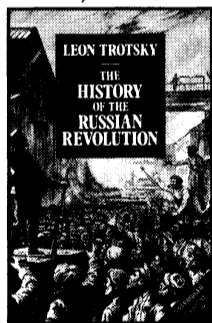
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Peasants keep up fight for land in Brazil

Continued from Page 3

proval of three pending laws that would benefit the agrarian reform; and an end to the crimes committed against the peasants with impunity."

In the past decade, nearly 1,000 peasants and their supporters have been killed while being forcibly evicted from the occupied lands, reported the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), a Catholic human rights organization. In the state of Pará alone 83 were killed, 30 in one incident in 1987. The commission also reports that 10 percent of land-lords own 80 percent of the lands in Brazil.

The most recent attack against the peasants took place June 12 in the municipality of Buriticupú, in the state of Maranhão, where 10 rural workers were killed. Around 600 families had occupied a 13,000-hectare farm, which a court ordered them to turn back to the former owners. The CPT reports that 30 armed men surrounded the peasants and began killing them in cold blood. The MST has sent a delegation to investigate the massacre.

One of the bloodiest confrontations took place on April 14 when the military police

attacked 2,000 peasants, killing at least 19 and injuring 55, in Eldorado do Carajás in the state of Pará, some 1,200 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro. Around 3,000 families had occupied the Macaxeira farm, in the municipality of Curianópolis March 5. Many of them were on their way to the state capital, Belém, to claim title for their land. The MST in São Paulo reports that two battalions of military police surrounded the peasants. The massacre began with the cops throwing tear gas bombs.

In Rio de Janeiro the television network *Globo* pointed out that after the peasants responded with stones and sticks, Col. Mario Pantoja "ordered his men to fire on the demonstrators. Not even those who ran into the bushes escaped death." When a reporter asked a survivor what the military police did when the peasants fell on the ground, he answered, "They dragged them and piled them up. We saw how they aimed their guns at those who were still alive, aiming at them on the ground and shooting them in the head."

Around 155 policemen have been temporarily arrested for the shooting and death

of the peasants, while Colonel Pantoja has been released. The MST has organized numerous protests to blast the impunity the government allows its police in these crimes. MST leaders have also urged international condemnation of this crime, and ask for protest messages to be sent to the government. *Sem Terra*, the MST's newspaper, reported that more than 10,000 people demonstrated in Belém against the massacre. Similar actions took place in various cities.

Meanwhile, peasants continue the occupations. *Sem Terra* reported that on April 19 around 3,000 families occupied the farm of Gacometti-Marodin in Rio Bonito do Iguaçu, in the central-western part of Paraná state. This is the largest occupation yet, with 80,000 hectares. *Globo Television* in Rio de Janeiro also reported that 250 families — mostly unemployed workers — arrived with trucks from four different towns in the Mato Grosso state. They occupied a farm of 10,000 hectares in Diamantino, 300 kilometers from Cuiaba. The owner there decided to settle peacefully with the workers, agreeing to cede part of the land.

Cuba meeting debates 'market socialism'

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND BROCK SATTER

HOLGUIN, Cuba — "The goal of U.S. government policy toward Cuba is to try to wipe out the example of our revolution and prevent another Cuba in the world," said Francisca López, a University of Havana professor, at a panel discussion on U.S.-Cuba relations. The panel was part of the eighth annual U.S.-Cuba Philosophy and Social Science Conference, held in mid-June in Havana and other Cuban cities.

The main conference, held at the University of Havana June 10-14, brought together about 120 Cuban participants and 45 from the United States and a few other countries. Afterward, some of them traveled to the cities of Holguín, Matanzas, and Camagüey to join smaller regional conferences.

The meetings took up a wide range of subjects. Among them were "Renovation of Marxism and Revolutionary Thought," "Neoliberalism and How to Fight It," "Gender, Race, and Sexuality," and "The Philosophy of José Martí and Education for the 21st Century." Underlying much of the conference discussion was the world capitalist depression — what it represents and how to confront it.

Neoliberalism is capitalism

"Transnational corporations are using the globalization of the economy to become virtually invincible," said one U.S. professor. He and others argued that a fight was needed against "neoliberal" economic policies, referring to so-called free-trade agreements and privatization.

Orieta Caponi, a professor from Venezuela, replied that "neoliberalism is actually capitalism." She described the savage austerity measures taken by the Venezuelan government and noted that "even left-wing parties in my country have ended up accepting the economic goals of the capitalists they were fighting." Her compatriot, Humberto Mendoza, referred to the brewing social unrest and working-class resistance to these attacks.

In the Havana and Holguín conferences, debates unfolded on the issue of "market socialism," the reliance on capitalist economic methods in workers states. U.S. professor David Schweickart argued that in countries like Cuba, factories should compete among themselves as a way to motivate workers and increase profitability, although he acknowl-



Public employees in Caracas, Venezuela, protest in January against unemployment compensation cuts. Other workers and students have engaged in similar actions.

edged that such policies could have "dangerous" repercussions for workers.

In the Havana meeting, Jaya Mehta, an economist from Delhi, India, responded that "market socialism hasn't ever worked anywhere in the world." She pointed to the disastrous conditions facing working people in Eastern Europe, where governments have carried out such policies for years.

Luis Aguilera, vice rector of the University of Holguín, rejected the "market socialism" perspective. "The objective of socialism is to achieve a superior form of organization and consciousness by the working class. That's the only genuine socialism," he said. He described the "workers parliaments" and other workers assemblies that have been held in Cuba over the past few years as an example of "real participatory democracy, unlike what exists in capitalist countries." Working people have been debating and deciding how to get Cuba out of the economic crisis.

At a panel discussion in the Holguín conference, several participants described the extraordinary efforts made by working people and others in Holguín province to complete the sugar harvest by June 14. Despite damaging rainstorms, that province achieved more than half a million tons — the highest results in the nation.

Another debated topic was the Cuban

Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, known here as the Helms-Burton law. Some participants from both the United States and Cuba asserted that U.S. president William Clinton had signed this measure because of pressure from right-wing Cuban-American businessmen. The law tightens Washington's trade embargo against this Caribbean nation.

At the panel discussion on U.S.-Cuban relations, a few Cubans reiterated points made by National Assembly president Ricardo Alarcón, who had addressed the opening session of the conference. Alarcón noted that the Helms-Burton law was part of a 36-year-long history of imperialist aggression against the Cuban revolution. He pointed out that Clinton had agreed with Congressional leaders to sign the bill months before the official pretext — Cuba's February 24 shootdown of two hostile U.S. planes that had violated the country's airspace — occurred.

At the end of the conference, Clifford DuRand, coordinator of the U.S. delegation, read a resolution on behalf of that group. "We express our solidarity with the socialist revolution, the anti-imperialist struggle, and the self-determination of the Cuban people, especially during the present hardships of the Special Period," it stated. The statement pledged active opposition to the U.S. embargo and travel ban against Cuba.

The term special period is used widely here to describe the crisis triggered by the post-1989 collapse of favorable trade relations with the former Soviet bloc countries.

One center of discussion at the conference was around a large display of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. Professors and students eagerly browsed titles on the fight for women's liberation, the struggle against fascism, speeches by Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, and the history of the communist movement in the United States.

One popular title was Leon Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution*. Another was *Lenin's Final Fight*. "Lenin's fight to incorporate more workers into the leadership of the Bolshevik party was a decisive part of his last political efforts," commented Rosa Nogueras of the University of Camagüey when she picked up that book.

Among the conference participants were two from Matanzas who have been helping prepare a Pathfinder edition of the Lenin book in Spanish. They have been checking the translation directly from Russian.

In Holguín, Arturo Leyva came right up to the Pathfinder table as soon as it went up. Leyva is the director of the Che Studies Program, which was established in February at the university here. "There's a tremendous hunger for the ideas of Che among youth today," he said.

Che studies programs

Che studies programs have also recently been initiated in Guantánamo and Santiago, Leyva said. And at the University of Havana, the Che Studies Program just completed its first successful semester in March, program director Delia López proudly reported.

Dozens of students and teachers who sought out the Pathfinder books said they had read books by that publishing house in the university library. Others had been reading the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, which are part of a permanent exhibit of publications set up by head librarian Joaquín Osorio. "Our library now has about 300 Pathfinder titles, thanks to donations," Osorio remarked.

"Joaquín introduced me to the *Militant*, and I've been reading it since then," said Amaury, one of a group of sophomore English students who stopped by to discuss politics.

"Is Mark Curtis still in prison?" asked another 20-year-old. He first heard of the framed-up political activist from ads in *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Many students at that campus had become Pathfinder readers in 1992, when Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters had been invited to a conference there. Since then, Osorio has helped promote these books through contests and special exhibits. Most of the earlier group of students have by now graduated, and a new generation of students are becoming avid readers of these books by revolutionary leaders.

Frank Patterson, an economics student who was very interested in *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks), came by the literature table as he was organizing volunteer student brigades to work in the sugarcane planting in mid-July. He added that his organization, the Federation of University Students (FEU), "is holding discussions to prepare two-person teams of students to go out to workplaces and communities throughout Holguín to discuss the Helms-Burton law next week."

At the end of the conference here, donations of Pathfinder books were made to the campus student center's reading hall, the Che Studies Program, and the university library.

More youth sign up for Cuba Exchange

BY DAVID CREED

LOS ANGELES — With the July 1 deadline for applications and payments for the trip to Cuba approaching fast, local coalitions and student groups across the United States are organizing fund-raisers and continuing to sign up youth for the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange. As of June 20, the New York-based Cuba Information Project (CIP) had received nearly 170 applications from young people. CIP is organizing travel for the project, sponsored by the National Network on Cuba.

In southern California 13 people have signed up to go on the exchange so far. "Several months ago I wasn't interested in going to Cuba," said Ramón Muñoz, an immigrant rights activist and student at San Diego State University. "But after seeing border patrol cops use forceful tactics against Pastors for Peace at the San Diego/Mexican border, I began to wonder, what's up about Cuba?"

A humanitarian aid caravan to Cuba or-

ganized by Pastors for Peace was stopped by U.S. authorities in January. Muñoz heard about the trip through an ad in *Voz Fronteriza*, a student paper based in San Diego that supports the Cuban revolution.

"After reading so much about Cuba, I want to see how a socialist society works," said Edmundo Fernández, a student at the University of California Riverside.

During the first half of June, the Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba has raised \$600 through two fund-raisers, a dinner with a video showing of the Cuban film *Death of a Bureaucrat* and a dance party. The funds will help applicants who want to go on the trip but can't afford the entire cost.

In Houston, Lief Gufthiudschmitt, a student at the University of Houston and member of the UH Cuba Friendship Committee, reports the he and two other student activists are going to Cuba with the exchange. To better prepare for the experience, they're organizing discussions on current developments in the Caribbean nation and Ernesto

Che Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*.

Activists in the Twin Cities Cuba Network have raised nearly \$1,000 through a rummage sale, a raffle, and donations. Currently, some 30 people are preparing to go to Cuba from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. At the University of Minnesota a new group, Students for Cuba, applied for an administrative grant to help defray costs of the trip and received \$300 per student.

The Twin Cities Cuba Network is planning to be at the annual Gay Pride celebration on June 23, with raffle tickets and a leaflet promoting an upcoming video showing of *Gay Cuba* at the University of Minnesota.

In Seattle, 12 people are now signed up to go on the trip. The Youth Exchange group has done phonebank fund-raising from the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Coalition mailing list and a send-off party is in the works. The Youth Exchange group there has raised \$1,300 to date.

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, a group of students and other youth have decided to sell tamales on the street and outside local factories during lunch to raise funds for the trip. "Tamales are good, people will buy them, and it's a new way to talk to workers about Cuba," explained Lorena Gaibor, a national coordinator for the youth exchange. These activists also are drafting a fundraising letter to be sent out by the New Jersey Network on Cuba.

A raffle in Atlanta recently netted over \$300 for the exchange. Many of the tickets were sold on the job by a United Auto Workers member who is planning to make the trip and other supporters of the project.

Sarah Katz in Minneapolis and Megan Arney in Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

Get your application in now for the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange

The National Network on Cuba is organizing a delegation of young workers and students from around the United States for a two-week trip to Cuba this summer. The group will spend most of its time in the provinces of Santiago and Guantánamo, with a few days in Havana at the end of the trip. In addition to time spent working with Cubans, participants will visit factories, farms, historic sites, and other places of interest.

The Youth Exchange is open to people between the ages of 15 and 35. The cost is \$855 from Montreal, \$600 from Nassau, Bahamas.

Applications for the trip are due by July 1.



For more information contact:
National Network on Cuba
c/o Cuba Information Project
198 Broadway, Suite 800
New York, NY 10038

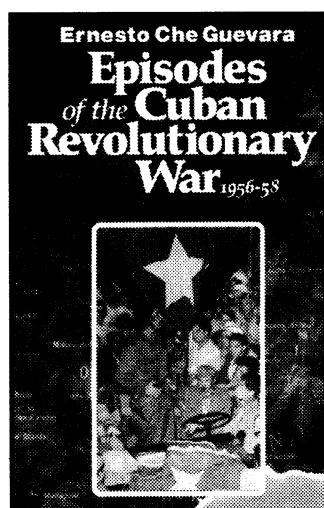
Contribute to the Books for Cuba Fund

Cuban libraries have requested donations of Pathfinder books. In the recent visit to Holguín a number of books have been donated to the campus library in that city. Make a contribution to the Books for Cuba Fund to make these political tools available to Cuban workers and youth.

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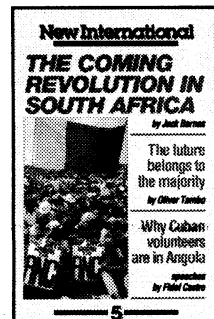


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JACK BARNES

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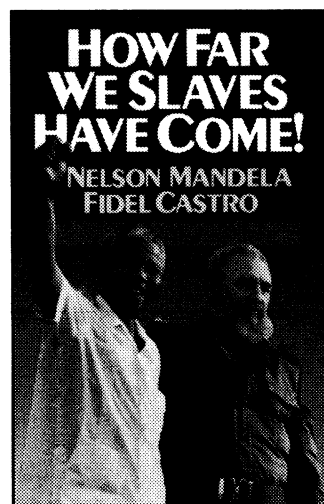
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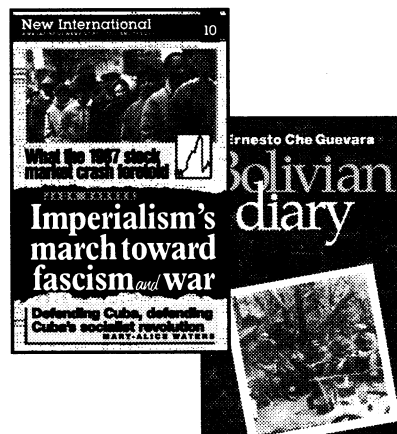
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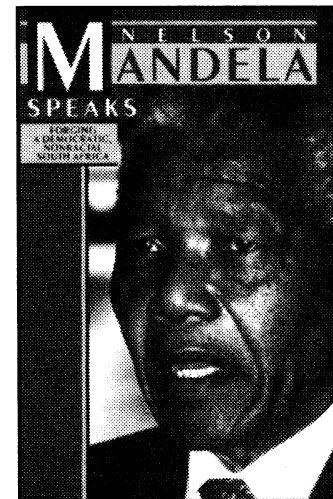
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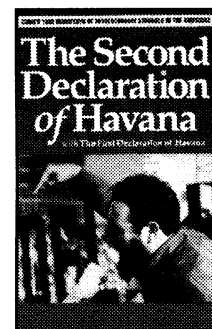
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High court strikes blow at voting rights

BY JOAN PALTRINERI

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — On June 13 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional the recently created 12th Congressional District in North Carolina, a majority Black voting district. District 12 was created after the 1990 census in an attempt to comply with the Voting Rights Act. The Court's 5-4 decision also invalidated three districts in Texas that are predominately Black and Chicano.

The case was brought by Robinson Everett and four other white residents of Durham, North Carolina. Everett, a Duke University law professor, called the district "a quota system for Black representatives," which he claimed violated the rights of voters who are white.

The court issued this ruling as a series of racist arson attacks on Black churches have continued to spread across the South. Black ministers charge little has been done by the federal government to protect Black communities during the one-and-half years of church burnings. With this decision the court has continued to chip away at the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The North Carolina 12th District is the eighth such district to be invalidated by a federal court. Others are in Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Florida.

A 1991 redistricting plan by the North Carolina state legislature had been rejected by the U.S. Justice Department on the grounds that it denied representation to Blacks. Only one congressional district was majority Black, although Blacks constitute 22 percent of the state's population. The Justice Department ordered the creation of a second majority-Black district.

State Republicans proposed a 200-mile-long district in the southern part of the state that would favor their electoral plans. Democrats proposed and passed an alternative 160-mile district going north and south through the center of the state. This plan protected the seats of Democratic representatives. In the 1992 elections, Democrats who are Black were elected in both majority Black districts, becoming the first Blacks elected to Congress from North Carolina since 1901.

The Justice Department had reviewed North Carolina's reapportionment under the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. The act was originally passed in 1965 and renewed in 1970 and 1982. It was one of the central conquests of the civil rights movement, which overthrew the system of legal segregation in the South known as Jim Crow.

The passage of the act enabled the federal government to intervene to prevent gerrymandering and other practices that made it difficult or impossible for Blacks to vote, get on the ballot, or win election to public office. In many cases new districts were created ending a situation of whites-only control that had existed for almost a century.

The Voting Rights Act outlawed discrimination in voting requirements and provided federal registrars to guarantee equal rights. It banned literacy tests, and, with later

amendments, covered such issues as ballots in languages other than English.

Another provision called for Justice Department preapproval of all changes in election-related laws in areas where discrimination had occurred. This covers nine southern states and parts of 13 others that include northern cities such as New York.

Before the act's approval, there were 200 Black elected officials — for local, state, and federal offices — nationwide. By 1993, that figure exceeded 8,000, half of them in the South.

In the years following the passage of the Act, local governments came up with all kinds of ways to dodge the effects of the law. Such practices included abolishing elective offices altogether when Blacks had a chance of winning or withholding information necessary for voting or running for office.

In 1969 the Supreme Court ruled that every action not prohibited in the Voting Rights Act would be covered by the law, which it said "should be given the broadest possible scope. But in 1992, the court voted to limit the scope of the act in a ruling based on a lawsuit filed by elected Black officials from Alabama.

The court's recent decision is expected to lead to more challenges. Last year a federal judge in Charlotte, North Carolina, threw out Mecklenburg County's commissioner and school board districts. The case is on appeal and a decision is expected next month. The suit was brought by Jack Daly, Republican nominee for State Auditor, who stated, "There's no question that there's going to be just a groundswell of litigation, and if I have anything to do with it, a number of suits are going to be filed this summer in every urban county of the state."

William Rehnquist, writing for the Supreme Court majority stated that North



Civil rights march, 1965, in Montgomery, Alabama. The Voting Rights Act was a fundamental gain of the civil rights movement.

Carolina's 12th Congressional district was illegal racial gerrymandering because it allowed race to be the "dominant and controlling" factor in its creation. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, in concurring with the majority decision, wrote that the 12th district with "The bizarre shape and non-compactness... bears an uncomfortable resemblance to political apartheid." Gerrymandering is not new. In fact, it is routinely used by the Democratic and Republican parties to divide up election districts to give themselves an electoral advantage.

Many of the districts made up of predominantly white voters in North Carolina have unusual shapes. But the Justices only found District 12, which is made up of 53

percent Black voters, to have an unconstitutionally "bizarre shape."

Pamela Karlan, a voting rights expert at the University of Virginia law school pointed out that while the court allows gerrymandering for a variety of reasons, it now expressly forbids it as a means of boosting minority representation. "If you draw districts with 400 sides to elect a conservative Republican or a white Democrat, that's fine, that's traditional politics," Karlan said. "But you can't use the same for Blacks and Hispanics." What happens next will be decided by a three-judge district court panel, which will rule within 21 days whether to keep the lines as is for now, or rush to draw up a new plan in time for the fall elections.

Burning of Black churches continues

BY TIM MAILHOT

BOLIGEE, Alabama — Another predominantly Black church was consumed by flames in Enid, Oklahoma, June 13. Meanwhile, efforts were under way to rebuild the three churches that were earlier burned down near this town, about 90 miles southwest of Birmingham. Mt. Zion Baptist was torched on December 22 and the Little Zion Baptist and Mt. Zoar Baptist on January 11. This reporter, along with Young Socialists leader Ryan Kelly from Boston, traveled there to join the volunteer work crew and get a first hand feel of the response to the burnings.

Some 35 Black churches have been burned in the Southern United States over the last year and a half, with an escalating number of arson attacks this year. Yet another church was destroyed by flames June 17, this time in the Black community in Rocky Point, North Carolina.

Before heading out to the new site of the Mt. Zion Church, we talked with Spiver Gordon, a long-time civil rights activist who is helping organize fund raising and volunteer labor. "Members of the churches have set up an account, the Green County Emergency Church Fund, to handle contributions to the rebuilding effort," Gordon said. "We've received over \$100,000 from all over the country towards the rebuilding of these three churches, but more is needed."

None of the churches could afford adequate insurance policies to cover rebuilding costs. Gordon explained that some individuals have also set up accounts and solicited contributions in the name of the three churches, rather than joining with them. "They are just trying to make themselves look good, while giving little support to the efforts of the Black community to rebuild," Gordon said of these individuals. "Things are getting worked out, though."

Newspaper articles have reported harassment of Black preachers and churchgoers by agents of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) during their investigation of the fires. "The FBI and ATF has spent a lot of time interrogating the ministers and parishioners of these churches," said Gordon. "They've subpoenaed church records, and asked if we have any drug dealers in our churches. The people here have resisted being treated this way, though, and told the agents what they think of their investigation." Over the last period, vigilance and protection of local churches has been quietly organized by members of the Black community.

Arrests have been rare in any of the 35 some cases. James Cavanaugh, ATF Special agent in charge of the Birmingham office, has been quoted saying that there is no evidence of racist motivation in these fires. Nevertheless, on the day that Mt. Zoar and Little Zion churches were burned, an article appeared in the *Sumter County Journal* reporting on the sentencing of two whites for a series of sledge-hammer attacks on three Black churches in nearby Coatopa. They had smashed pews, kitchen equipment, and windows while drunk. A third defendant committed suicide before sentencing.

Two young whites were also recently arrested for the burning of two Black churches in Greeleyville and Bloomville, South Carolina. They reportedly attended a Ku Klux Klan rally weeks before the fires, and one was carrying a card identifying him as a

member of the Christian Knights of the KKK when arrested.

Meanwhile, Ralph Reed, head of the rightist Christian Coalition, called a meeting for June 18 with civil rights and Black groups to discuss the burnings. He was shown on CNN suggesting that the arson attacks are not racist terrorism, but rather are part of an attack on religion, citing fires at predominantly white churches and synagogues.

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the civil rights group Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said he would talk to Reed, but that the Christian Coalition had contributed to "a climate of negativism" in the United States. "They're not going to absolve themselves by exploiting these fires," he said.

Reed called Lowery's criticisms "an irresponsible comment."

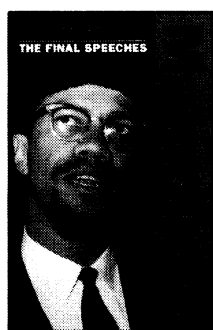
The Mt. Zion Church is being built at a new site. Over the last three weeks, the foundation had been set and the framing for the walls was up. When we arrived, there were about 10 people already at work, putting up plywood and insulating sheets. The outside will be finished with brick, headed up by Robert Woolridge, a local Black contractor. "This isn't my church, but members of the congregation asked me to do this, so I agreed to a reduced fee. Some of my regular workers go to this church," he said.

Working on the crew are a number of Blacks from the area, and volunteers from the Washington Quaker Workcamps. They come from South Carolina, New Mexico, and other states. Later in the day, we met people from the United Kingdom and Tanzania. By lunch time, there were about 30 people on the site. Skill levels varied greatly. One taught junior high and college in Chicago, one was a computer programmer, and another was an architect. "The volunteers have been a big help," Woolridge noted. "They all work together with no problem."

Chuck Cole, the teacher, had seen the articles in the news. "I was outraged by these fires, and felt obligated to act. It is important to stand up for what is right. What we're doing here is not really work, either. It's a pleasure to work with other committed people."

Tim Mailhot is a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Socialist Workers candidate in the 6th Congressional District.

for further reading from Pathfinder



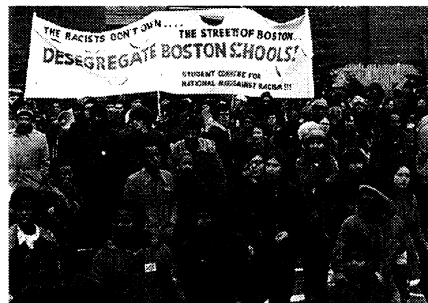
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Strikers protest plans by McDonnell to hire scabs

BY MARY MARTIN
AND DANNY BOOHER

ST. LOUIS — "What do we want? A contract! When do we want it? Now! What do we want? Jobs! When do we want them? Now!" These were the shouts of six busloads of striking machinists and their families in front of the world headquarters building of McDonnell Douglas Aerospace in Hazelwood, Missouri. The lead bus was draped with a banner that read, "I'd rather be the son of a Machinist than the son of a CEO." The protest was organized as part of a Fathers Day picnic and rally, held at the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 837 union hall and strike headquarters. The rally received wide media coverage in the St. Louis area.

The walkout, which began on June 5 against McDonnell Douglas by members of IAM District 837, entered its second week with no new negotiations set. The machinists union is demanding guarantees that the work done at McDonnell will not be outsourced to non-union companies or other McDonnell Douglas facilities, and that 7,000 jobs will stay in the plant.

The company is pressing for job combinations and outsourcing to cut its costs and to increase its rate of profit. The job elimination would reduce the workforce from 6,500 to 5,000 by the end of the proposed contract. Strikers are also demanding a wage increase, which they have not received in seven years, and improvements in benefits and pensions.

Since the first day of the strike, McDonnell Douglas spokesperson Tom Williams has claimed that 1,500 engineers are now doing the production work once

done by the striking machinists. The number has now reportedly climbed to between 2,500 and 3,000. There are over 15,000 non-union employees currently working in the plant, who the company refers to as FEP's — Free Enterprise Personnel. They consist of engineers, foremen, secretaries, and other office personnel.

McDonnell to hire replacements

McDonnell spokesman Tom Williams told reporters, "To stay to schedule... we will hire temporary replacement employees for our operations in St. Louis." When pressed for more details Williams responded, "I don't want to get into specifics as to who they are, for security reasons... we are looking for very qualified people with skills like those of the machinists." Williams announced that some of the replacement workers will come from McDonnell's non-union plant in Mesa, Arizona, where the Apache Helicopter is assembled. He also said McDonnell will temporarily transfer some work done currently done in St. Louis to its other plants and to other companies.

A June 14 *Wall Street Journal* article headlined "McDonnell Takes Caterpillar Strike Path" said the move to hire replacements "closely parallels actions taken by Caterpillar Inc. in that company's successful showdown last year against the United Auto Workers union."

McDonnell is also pressing its bid to buy the space and military divisions of Rockwell International Corp., although final negotiations were delayed due to the strike. A *Washington Post* article noted that the transaction would create a company with combined sales last year of \$17.7 billion. This would

put McDonnell on a stronger footing to compete with the aerospace giant Lockheed Martin Corp., which just acquired the military business of Loral Corp. two months ago.

One striking worker told the *Militant*, "They can replace us, and will replace us, but McDonnell will have to decide at what cost."

On the day of the announcement the union held a press conference at strike headquarters denouncing the attempt to break the strike and vowing to bring more pressure to bear on the company. Doris Shirley has worked at McDonnell for 21 years. She said, "If they bring in replacement workers there's going to be hell to pay. Who are they trying to kid? A replacement worker is a replacement worker. There's nothing temporary about it."

Other workers continue to show their solidarity with the strike, stopping by the picket line or honking in support as they pass by. A letter of support arrived at strike head-

Grocery workers strike in Denver



Militant/Horace Kerr

Some 14,000 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) began a strike May 13, after King Scooper and Safeway, two major grocery stores in Colorado, issued their "last, best and final offer." They want to hire nonunion outfits, and are aiming to stop pension plan payments for five years. Unionists have organized rallies of 200 and 400 people.

quarters from Bill Johnson, District President of IAM District Lodge 751, which organizes the workers at Boeing. Operating Engineers Local 148 in St. Louis also sent a message.

Marcellow Malentacchi, president of the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) from Geneva, Switzerland, sent a letter expressing solidarity with the strikers at McDonnell. The IMF includes all the unions at Airbus Industries, a major competitor of McDonnell Douglas. Earlier the Swiss government had complained that the IAM strikers were "greedy."

On June 14, the St. Louis Board of Alderman passed a resolution in support of the strike.

At a June 15 local union meeting held at strike headquarters a worker from Boeing in Seattle was introduced to the couple hundred in attendance. Scott Breen is a member of the machinists union who came to St. Louis to show his solidarity for the strike. He explained, "As a worker from Boeing I want you to know that we are not your mortal enemy, as Herbert Lanese [president of McDonnell Douglas] would like you to think. We are your brothers and sisters!" The union hall broke into applause. Breen was referring to comments attributed to Lanese at a contract negotiations session before the strike, where he reportedly said, "You in the IAM think of the people in Boeing in Seattle and the people at Lockheed Martin as your brothers and sisters. You have to look at them like I do, as your mortal enemy."

Strike support activities are under way with a statewide rally called for Saturday June 22 at the Horse Palace of Missouri in St. Charles. The event is billed as a Herb and Harry Pig Roast, after Lanese and McDonnell CEO Harold Stonecipher. The rally is sponsored by the Missouri AFL-CIO, St. Louis Central Labor Council, and the IAM District 837.

Mary Martin is a member of IAM Local 1759 at Northwest Airlines in Washington, D.C. Danny Booher is a member of IAM Local 1918 at USAir in New York. Jim Garrison, a member of United Auto Workers Local 110 at Chrysler in Fenton, Missouri, contributed to this article.

ValuJet forced to close over safety

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — ValuJet was forced to "voluntarily" ground its fleet June 17. David Hinson of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said that the airline would not reopen "until such time as it demonstrates appropriate corrective action" for "serious deficiencies" in its maintenance program. The action came more than a month after ValuJet Flight 592 crashed in the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board. The families of six of the victims had filed a complaint with the FAA requesting that the airline be grounded for violating maintenance regulations.

Hinson said the problems at the company include failing to establish the airworthiness of some of its aircraft; system-wide deficiencies in the airline's maintenance program; multiple shortcomings in the quality assurance of ValuJet's contractors; and lack of engineering capability.

Hinson and Transportation Secretary Federico Peña had repeatedly defended ValuJet's safety record in the days after the crash. Although transportation officials say they thought ValuJet was safe, the June 11 *Miami Herald* quoted from a draft report on an FAA inspection of the airline that came out five days before the crash.

The report pointed to serious maintenance problems including one instance where a mechanic, lacking a repair manual and required tool, removed an engine part with a chisel and hammer. The chisel damaged the engine seal, allowing oil to drain out and the engine to shut down in flight. An FAA inspector witnessed the repair.

The report also noted many instances of the 30 inspected planes having missing rivets, leaking fuel, and loose screws, hinges, and seats. Some 15 flight attendant seats were broken or had loose parts.

The inspection of the airline came after a number of incidents that included an engine fire that destroyed a plane in Atlanta and seriously injured a flight attendant, and jets sliding off the runways in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia.

ValuJet hired its own team of inspectors following the Florida crash that, according to *Aviation Week*, "found no safety problems." The team is headed by retired Air Force Gen. James Davis, who said they "found nothing to believe that this airline is unsafe — and I'll stand by that."

Following the June 17 shutdown, the *Miami Herald* wrote: "Documents uncovered by the media in recent weeks have painted a picture of a carrier operating with crews inadequately trained; aircraft that routinely flew with broken, malfunctioning or inoperative parts, including leaking fuel tanks, frayed wiring and passenger cabin communications that didn't work; and repairs on planes that were carried out without any apparent regard to approved procedures, and repairs reported as completed when they hadn't been."

In Miami June 10, the crash recovery project in the Everglades was called off with about 75 percent of the debris found. Parts showing fire damage include a melted aluminum frame from a passenger seat (aluminum melts at 1,220 degrees Fahrenheit) and fire-damaged beams from the cabin floor. The scenario of fire in the cabin has highlighted a number of unsafe conditions at all airlines, knowingly accepted by both the companies and government regulators. These include no fire detectors in many of the cargo holds and no flame-retardant cabin materials in planes built before 1990.

Smaller passenger planes such as DC-9's and 737's are not required to have either fire detectors or extinguishers in the cargo area. The FAA has ignored recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to install these.

On May 31 the NTSB recommended that oxygen generators should not be transported in cargo holds that lack fire detectors. The agency temporarily banned on May 23 all passenger planes from carrying any generators until the end of this year. The devices use a chemical reaction to produce oxygen for the masks located in the cabins of planes. The chemical reaction creates heat up to 500 degrees.

ValuJet Flight 592 was reported to have 144 oxygen generating canisters, 119 of them with no safety caps, which were packaged loosely in boxes and loaded in the cargo hold.

ValuJet tried to blame SabreTech, one of 56 contractors working for the airline, for the disaster. SabreTech says it was returning the parts to the airline and ValuJet is responsible for what it loads onto its aircraft.

Federal authorities including the FBI, announced June 13 they would investigate "whether crimes were committed in the crash of a ValuJet plane that was carrying

an illegal cargo of hazardous oxygen canisters," reported the June 14 *Miami Herald*. Preliminary targets of the investigation are ValuJet and SabreTech.

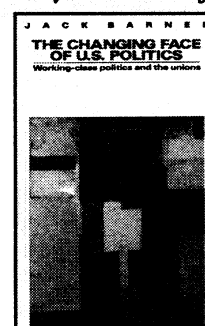
ValuJet responded to the announcement in a statement reading, "It is misleading and incorrect to refer to ValuJet as the target of the investigations since its focus is broad and includes all of the people, companies and circumstances surrounding the accident." The investigation and report on the crash by the government will include a public hearing to be tentatively held in Miami in the fall.

According to the June 18 *USA Today*, ValuJet shareholders filed a lawsuit May 30 "saying its top executives made false statements about ValuJet's safety record." The airline cut its flights in half from 320 to 160 on June 2. Even with that, many planes have flown half empty.

With the shutdown, ValuJet announced it may lay off up to 75 percent of its workforce. Fifty of ValuJet's 600 flight attendants had already quit since the crash. The Association of Flight Attendants has said that some ValuJet flight attendants earn only \$12,000 a year, are not guaranteed raises and have no paid sick leave or vacation.

Janet Post is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368 at United Airlines in Miami and a Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress.

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Curtis walks out of Iowa prison after seven years

Continued from front page
with you for a socialist future."

Supporters of Mark Curtis formed the MCDC in days following his unjust arrest in Des Moines. The committee moved its offices to Chicago earlier this year in anticipation of Curtis's release.

"While you're free from these walls, you're not a free man," said Chris Naper, a leader of the MCDC in Chicago. Naper was referring to Iowa and Illinois parole conditions and to legislation recently passed in Illinois that requires all those convicted of a sex crime to register with local law enforcement officials for ten years after their release from prison.

Because Curtis was framed on charges of sexual assault, prison officials made him sign an Iowa sex offender registry form before he could be released. Within 72 hours after his release Curtis has to report to his parole officer; report to the Chicago police department to register as a sex offender; and report to the Iowa state police to give a blood sample for DNA fingerprinting. Under the parole conditions, he will not be allowed to leave Cook County, Illinois, without special permission.

The defense committee has secured a legal team to help, Naper reported, and has pledged to lend its support to assure that Curtis' rights are protected "until you're totally free from all these undemocratic restrictions."

Joel Britton welcomed Curtis on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. "Your unjust imprisonment is over — an unjust parole of uncertain duration has begun," Britton said.

"Your comrades and supporters in Chicago are ready to work with you — to get employment, to get acclimatized to your new life outside prison walls, Britton added. "To get back, in due time, into the political world out here made richer by a capitalist crisis deeper than it was when they took you away from us; made richer by the political polarization we see deepening; made richer by the struggles of working people all over

the world."

Mark Curtis began his remarks with a quote from James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the SWP who was jailed with other party leaders for his opposition to U.S. entry into World War II. Upon his release from prison in 1945, Cannon greeted supporters by commenting, "As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted . . ."

For more than seven years he spent in half a dozen different Iowa prisons, Curtis has remained a political activist and socialist. "The world I am coming out into is very different," he said, noting the deepening capitalist economic crisis and the impact it is having on working people worldwide.

While in prison, Curtis said, he watched Nelson Mandela win his release from jail in apartheid South Africa, he cheered for the Russian people as they broke the chains of Stalinist bureaucracy, and he followed the ongoing struggle of the Cuban people as they move to strengthen their revolution in the face of imperialist hostilities and a world economic crisis.

Curtis said that he is going to Chicago to pick up where he left off by getting a job and getting involved in political activity. He said he looked forward to standing "shoulder to shoulder with fighters like those on strike against McDonnell Douglas."

Explaining why he can't live the "easy and quiet life," Curtis said the conditions that capitalism is breeding and forcing workers to live under "are calling me back" to get involved in the fights of working people.

"I pledge myself to take every opportunity to publicize and build support for others who have been framed-up and victimized," said Curtis pointing to the cases of Native American activist Leonard Peltier and Black journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

His recent experiences have reinforced his view that "there is no better calling than that to commit your life to helping to lead the fight against capitalism and for a better society."

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union member David Ochoa took the day off from his job at a meatpacking plant in Perry, Iowa to travel to Ft. Madison to greet Mark Curtis. "He's a man who's done a lot for immigrant workers," explained Ochoa as he waited for Curtis' release. "He's trying to make a change in the capitalist system and fight for workers' rights."

Frankie Travis, a member of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) from Decatur, Illinois also missed a day of work to attend the event. "Mark Curtis inspired people like me and others around the world with the spirit he showed while he was in prison."

After the welcoming ceremony, Curtis and his supporters drove to Peoria, Illinois, for a luncheon. As people talked informally, Hazel Zimmerman noted that Curtis's remarks at the prison were "just like the speech he gave supporters in the courtroom following his conviction" in 1988 when he turned his back to the judge, faced supporters, and

explained how he would leave the prison the same man as he went in. Zimmerman said she thought this was the biggest victory.

Curtis's mother, Jane Curtis, who had traveled from New Mexico for the occasion, said she agreed. "They certainly have not succeeded in dampening his political spirit."

Supporters in the Chicago area have reaffirmed their commitment to holding weekly meetings to organize to publicize Curtis' victory in winning parole and to stand ready to defend him from whatever new violations of his rights may occur.

To make a financial contribution toward Curtis' legal expenses and for more information on how you can help, write the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at P.O. Box 477419, Chicago, IL 60647, call (312) 235-4820 or E-mail at 75543,1440 (Compuserve.)

Angel Lariscy is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local 7-807 in Mapleton, Illinois.

Conference

Continued from front page
hibit center will feature the entire range of Pathfinder titles, which will be available for sale, many at special discounts.

James Harris, a leader of the party's trade union work and the Socialist Workers candidate for president of the United States, will give a report on behalf of the SWP's National Trade Union Committee. A representative of the Young Socialists leadership will also give one of the feature presentations.

Workshops aimed at increasing the effectiveness of political work by party members and supporters, classes on a wide range of political and historical topics, special events, as well as music, sports, and time for informal discussion and exchange of experiences are part of the program. Classes will include such topics as "Fascism: what it is and how to fight it," "Marxism and terrorism," "Politics of Chicano liberation," "The fight for Black freedom," "The rise of working-class resistance in Germany," "Fidel Castro's political strategy," and "Communist Continuity and the fight for women's liberation." The conference will conclude on Tuesday night, July 9.

All those interested in attending can contact conference organizers listed in the directory below.

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Crisis in Russia — Did Washington Win The Cold war? Speaker, Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party, member Union Transportation Union. Fri., June 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 551-5239.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Report from the Picket Line: Support Striking Workers at McDonnell Douglas. Speaker: Mary Martin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. Fri., June 28, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St., N.W. (entrance on Florida at 18th). Washington, D.C. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Government Offensive Against Aboriginal Rights. Speakers: Jenny Munro, aboriginal activist; Linda Harris, Communist League. Fri., June 28, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 281 3297.

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Stop The Rightist-Loyalist Marches Through the Catholic Communities of Northern Ireland. Speaker: Gerard Rice, spokesperson for the Lower Ormeau Road Concerned Community. Meeting and video of the struggles that took place last year. 47 The Cut. (nearest tube: Waterloo). Donation: £2. Tel: 0171 401 2409.

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CORRECTION

The article "Workers in U.S. have an interest in fighting Cuba blockade" in the June 24 *Militant* contained a typographical error. The third paragraph from the end, quoting Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, should have read, "Here, no action the government takes has been done without massive involvement by the people."

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

Manhattan

D.J. Party and Open Mike; Fundraiser for the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange. Sat., June 29, 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$6 dance or \$10 with dinner included. Sponsored by Black Panther Committee for Social Progress, Casa de las Americas, Cuba Information Project, Dominican National Congress, Emergency Women's Action Committee, Haitian Constituency USA, Lions Movement, Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, National People's Campaign, Socialist Workers Party, U.S. Health Care Trade Union Committee, Venceremos Brigade, Young Socialists. *Casa de las Americas, 104 West 14th St. (between 6th and 7th Aves.). For information call Reggie Mason BMCC student government (212) 406-3980.*

PHILADELPHIA

Pittsburgh

March Against Police Brutality. Justice for Jonny Gammage. Sat., June 29, 11 a.m. Meet at Freedom corner, Hill District (corner of Center and Crawford). March to City Hall. *For more information, call (412) 363-4410 or e-mail pshell@cmu.edu*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Free Leonard Peltier. International Educational Forum. Wed., June 26, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Speakers, film, music, Peltier artwork. See the new documentary on Leonard Peltier produced by the Australian Broadcasting Company. Also special screening of "Incident at Oglala" produced by Robert Redford, 6 to 8 p.m. American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Ward circle Bldg. #1.

International Freedom Rally. Thurs., June 27, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Rally/Lobby Congress. U.S. Capitol building, 1st St. (between Constitution and Independence Aves.). Fri., June 28, Lobby congress/foreign diplomats. *For more information, call LPDC - KS, (913) 842-5774, LPDC - D.C. (202) 783-2512.*

The Disappeareds — Associated Press calls them “the ghosts of the U.S. economy” — the million “discouraged” workers who can’t find jobs and have quit looking.



Harry Ring

They’re not included in U.S. jobless figures

Where’s the bicycle tape? — In our local daily it was a bottom-of-the-page news brief. Last year, a Valujet mechanic called a federal airline safety hot line and reported

that the company was knowingly flying a plane with a leaky fuel tank. An unpublished Federal Aviation Administration document said the plane was used on seven flights before being grounded.

By capitalist standards, sure — The *Los Angeles Times* hailed it as “remarkable,” “far-reaching,” and “historic.” It’s a plan to reduce the smog that frequently cuts visibility by 50 percent at the Grand Canyon and other area national parks. Agreed to by seven western states and four Indian tribes, the plan, aims to reduce the pollution by 10 percent over the next 30 years.

Can’t be pig-headed — Parties to the Colorado pact agreed not to ask Southern California Edison to

install pollution controls at its Nevada coal-fired power plant, which spews out 40,000 tons of sulfur dioxide a year, the biggest single source of Grand Canyon pollution. Instead, they proposed two years of talk between the company and the feds.

Working really is a pain — A study found that two-thirds of full-time U.S. workers have conditions that cause pain. Last year, 8 percent of the work force — nearly 10 million people — were on short-term disability because of painful situations.

Nine percent suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome or other repetitive strain disorders. Thirty six million workers suffer lower back pain, 24 million, muscle pain, and 20 mil-

lion, neck pain.

They feel fine — That pain survey was done for the Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical company.

‘But somebody’s gotta do it’ — “People faint, they get hysterical.... We always go through the [layoff] list for people with health problems or mental health issues. We check to see if there are any gun collectors.... You pay attention to all these things and make special plans for those people.... It’s a terrible thing to be good at.” — China Gorman, vice president of an “outplacement” firm that coaches execs on the art of firing.

A caring company — Employed at a San Diego Taco Bell,

Nicholas Zenns, 17, and several others, helped a woman in labor at the restaurant give birth. With the baby delivered, Zenns sat down and ate a burrito.

Taco Bell apparently took a dim view of the incident, including Zenns’s failure to pay for the burrito. They say that with that, he quit. He indicates quitting wasn’t his idea.

Seed money — Monsignor Patrick O’Shea was charged in San Francisco with embezzling more than \$260,000 from church donor contributions and using much of it to maintain a home in Indian Wells, a posh desert community, and another home at a lakeside. He was director of the San Francisco Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

Eugene Debs: ‘The sun of socialism is rising’

The following review of *Eugene V. Debs Speaks* appeared in the May 31 issue of *The Capital Times* of Madison, Wisconsin, under the title “Builder of the beautiful world that is to be.” The book, recently reprinted by Pathfinder Press, contains 30 speeches and articles by the socialist and labor leader. They cover everything from the Pullman strike organized by the American Railway Union, founded by Debs in 1893, to the socialist leader’s speech to the jury that convicted him of violating the Espionage Act by speaking out against the imperialist slaughter of World War I. *Debs Speaks* includes an introduction by James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States.

BY JOHN NICHOLS

Within the lifetimes of our senior citizens, more than 80,000 Wisconsinites cast their presidential ballots for a convict — a man labeled by prosecutors as a “traitor,” condemned by senators as an “anarchist,” and portrayed by the newspapers of his day as the most dangerous figure in America.

Voters in one Madison ward, the 6th, actually gave more votes to this tribune of radicalism than to the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. And in at least four wards of the city of Milwaukee, he actually won — as he did in sections of Wausau, Manitowoc, Two Rivers and a host of other Wisconsin communities.

The year was 1920, and the candidate was Eugene Victor Debs, who was running his fifth and final campaign as the nominee of the Socialist Party. Debs was a genuine American radical — a pioneering rail union organizer, a founder of the Socialist Party and Industrial Workers of the World and, with Wisconsin’s Bob La Follette, a bold foe of American involvement in World War I.

It was that opposition to war that led to Debs’ conviction for violation of the nation’s Espionage Act, and ultimately his jailing in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary at age 64.

Debs did not commit espionage. His crime was believing that free speech meant something in America. His mistake involved addressing a crowd of thousands in Canton, Ohio, telling them:

“The feudal barons of the Middle Ages, the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day, declared all wars.... That is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose — especially their lives.”

Debs’ critique of war was not particularly new, yet he delivered it with such flair that he was seen by the war profiteers and their political serfs as a genuine threat to their plans. Indeed, Debs’ words were a threat to what he referred to as “the master class.”

Like William Jennings Bryan, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, and a handful of others in that pre-broadcast era, Debs knew how to turn the mood of a crowd. His words turned millions to the Socialist Party, which in the early years of this century was the nation’s most powerful force for social and economic justice. That, is why — 70 years after his death — his speeches, collected in a handsome new edition of “Eugene V. Debs Speaks” are so deserving of attention.

“Debs Speaks” is not a perfect book. The aged introductory essay by James P. Cannon gets lost in an attempt to locate Debs on the sectarian landscape of the 1950s. The publishers of this edition really owed it to readers to offer a new introduction, which could have explained Debs’ socialist vision in the context of the post-Cold War world.

Despite that flaw, however, “Debs Speaks” is a treasure. A high school dropout from Terre Haute, Ind., Debs was one of the most brilliant and effective advocates of his or any time.

More preacher than politician, he wove together the elements of people’s lives in arguments that made dispossessed textile workers and lumberjacks, assembly line



Eugene Debs gives speech during stop of “Red Special,” a train he used during his socialist presidential election campaign in 1908.

hands and migrant laborers believe they could change the world.

“Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. He has not come, he never will come. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again,” Debs said at a 1910 rally in New York City.

Debs did not limit himself to mere economic advocacy. He was one of the first major politicians in America to speak out forcefully for racial justice, declaring in 1903, “The history of the Negro in the United States is a history of crime without paral-

lel,” and saying, “The whole world is under obligation to the Negro, and that the white heel is still upon the black neck is simply proof that the world is not yet civilized.”

Debs believed that socialism was the road to civilization. It was his faith, expressed in the Canton speech for which he was jailed:

“The sun of capitalism is setting, the sun of socialism is rising. It is our duty to build the new nation and the free republic.... We, the socialists are the builders of the beautiful world that is to be.”

John Nichols is an editorial writer for *The Capital Times*.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

Price 10¢

July 3, 1971

AUSTIN — A U.S. district court in Dallas ruled June 17 that the Texas abortion laws are unconstitutional because “the fundamental right of single women and married persons to choose whether to have children is protected by the Ninth Amendment through the Fourteenth Amendment.”

The Texas ruling is the first to assert that women have a basic right to control their own childbearing functions.

Members of women’s liberation groups were generally pleased at the ruling, but disappointed that an injunction against the enforcement of the unconstitutional law was denied.

Austin Women’s Liberation members will be drawing up the “ideal abortion law,” and circulating it around the state to gain support for the complete repeal of the Texas abortion laws. Projected plans for the group in the fall include a statewide conference sponsored by the Abortion Law Committee of Austin Women’s Liberation, demonstrations, picketing and more petitioning.

As one Texas woman said, “The court case was a start; it certainly isn’t enough.”

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

July 6, 1946

As Congress put the stamp of approval on unrestricted inflation, labor began to fight back with demands for wage increases.

Even under OPA, prices soared so rapidly in the past four months that the wage gains won by the great strike wave have been largely canceled.

Akron rubber workers, Detroit auto workers, and packinghouse workers have already raised the demand for a sliding scale of wages to meet price rises or for a regular “cost of living” bonus in addition to basic wage rates.

With the ending of the last pretense of “price control,” the government’s whole policy of “economic stabilization” has collapsed. All the 40,000 wage contracts approved by the Wage Stabilization Board are, in effect, tossed out the window. Wages were fixed on the basis of “price control.”

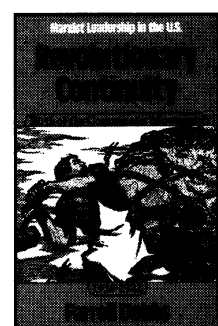
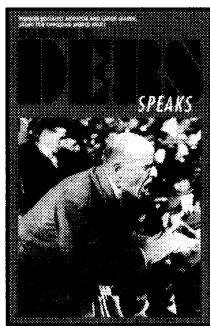
WSB officials admit that now the government has no pretext for enforcing a wage freeze. They express the fear that there will be a huge wave of new wage demands and renewed labor struggles.

Union leaders confirm this. Almost all warn that the workers will resist rising prices with powerful wage demands.

Available from Pathfinder

Eugene V. Debs Speaks

Speeches by the pioneer U.S. socialist agitator and labor leader, jailed for opposing Washington’s imperialist aims in World War I. Debs speaks out on capitalism and socialism, anti-immigrant chauvinism, how anti-Black racism weakens the labor movement, Rockefeller’s massacre of striking miners at Ludlow, Colorado, and more. \$19.95



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Build Cuba youth exchange

The deadline to get in applications and funds for the Youth Exchange trip to Cuba is just over one week away. Now is the time to go the extra mile into making fundraising efforts a success and signing up as many more young workers and students as possible by July 1.

Building the largest and most representative delegation to Cuba from the United States will help broaden opposition to Washington's economic war against the Cuban people. Youth traveling to Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, and Havana will have a chance to find out first hand why the communist leadership and working people in Cuba stand firm in defense of the socialist revolution. The Cuban revolution continues to advance despite political setbacks in the Americas and material difficulties over the last decade and unrelenting political and military pressure by the empire to the North.

The youth exchange will also serve as a springboard to begin building the world festival of students and youth and an international trade union conference to be held in the Caribbean nation in August of 1997.

Defenders of the revolution are selling raffle tickets to coworkers; organizing rummage sales, picnics, film show-

ings, and speakouts; getting the word out through radio programs and newspaper articles. Joining picket lines, anti-racist rallies, and mobilizations in defense of affirmative action and immigrant rights with publicity for the exchange can net more recruits for the trip.

This is also the time to iron out important logistical details such as getting or renewing passports. Obtaining journalists credentials can also be a political boon since it will provide young people additional opportunities to write or talk about their experiences through the media when they return.

The month of July can also be used to continue raising funds, putting together send-off events, and organizing study groups on the history and current challenges of the Cuban revolution to prepare those going to get the most out of the experience. The remaining time can also be utilized to raise material aid to be donated to schools, hospitals, farms, and factories while in Cuba. Building the broadest possible delegation will be the best blow right now against Washington's unrelenting cold war on our fellow toilers in the first free territory of the Americas.

All out to build the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange!

British troops out of Ireland

The following statement was issued by the Manchester branch of the Communist League in the United Kingdom on Saturday, June 15, the day of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing in the city.

The Communist League calls on all working people, youth and defenders of democratic rights to demand that John Major's government immediately end the exclusion of Sinn Fein from talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein won 15.5 percent of the votes in the election Major himself set up, their highest vote ever, yet they have been left outside the gates where the newly elected body is meeting.

The British government insists that Sinn Fein, and the 40 percent of the nationalist community that its vote represents, will be excluded until the IRA declare another cease-fire. Meanwhile the British army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) remain free, as they did during the last cease-fire, to harass, terrorize and victimize the Catholic population of Northern Ireland. The British army has 135 military installations, while the RUC has 161 fortified installations in the Six Counties.

The Irish freedom struggle is the biggest powder keg confronting the rulers of the UK whose decline as an imperialist power is continuing under the depression conditions facing world capitalism.

Faced with unbreakable resistance by Irish toilers to national oppression and discrimination, the British government — which has dominated Ireland for centuries and militarily occupied the northern part of the country for

the last 25 years — has been forced to seek a new arrangement in its oldest colony. The crisis-ridden Major government is unable to take the decisive action necessary to bring about Britain's withdrawal today, but withdrawal is only a matter of time.

The bombing in Manchester today reflects the fact that the Republican Movement is undefeated. The Major government has no one but themselves to blame for the bomb. They were the ones who, for eighteen months of cease-fire, from August 1994 to February 1996, did nothing but delaying and putting obstacles in the way of the peace talks by demanding preconditions.

The true face of British justice can be seen in the treatment of Irish prisoner Pat Kelly. While Kelly was in British jails his medical condition was criminally neglected to the point where he is now terminally ill with cancer. Kelly, like other political prisoners, would not be in jail if it wasn't for the British occupation of Ireland.

The actions of the Manchester police before and after the bomb show that the police are not organized or trained to protect people. That is not their job. Their role is to protect the interests of property, big business and the state. Consequently shops were not closed and evacuated in the hour after the warning, resulting in thousands of people being in the area when the bomb went off.

Working people in Britain and Ireland have a common interest in the fight for Irish self-determination. Ending British rule in Ireland will inflict a blow against the ruling rich who exploit workers in both countries.

Free political prisoners! Disband the RUC!

Protest racist church burnings

Continued from front page

racists who seek to push back the gains of the Black rights struggle by other means.

Our campaign is raising this issue across the country. We are calling on defenders of democratic rights, Black rights activists, and the labor movement to demand the Clinton administration send federal troops to physically defend Black churches throughout the South as an immediate measure to halt the burnings. Any such congregation unable to secure its premises, or not getting adequate protection from local or state authorities, must have the right to ask and receive immediate assistance by federal troops.

At the same time speak-outs, picket lines, and other protests are needed to condemn these racist assaults and press the government to apprehend and jail those responsible. Mobilizations can push back the terror campaign aimed at intimidating the entire Black community and resowing the seeds of segregation in the South.

One such public rally has been called by Bishop George Battle Jr. of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, for June 22 at 5:00 p.m. It will take place at the United House of Prayer, 2321 Beatties Ford Road, and deserves a big turnout. The Mathews Murkland Presbyterian church was burned there recently.

Supporters of the socialist campaign can help initiate other actions like this now. Another way we are responding is by talking with thousands of workers and youth in Alabama while petitioning to get on the ballot. Supporters are encouraged to join this effort right away.

Capitalism breeds racist violence all over the world. Fascist thugs have committed arson and violent assaults against immigrants in Germany and France in recent years. Church burnings here reflect the political polarization and rightist thuggery bred by the declining profit system. Ultrarightist presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan and Alabama governor Fob James have both championed the use of the Confederate flag — a symbol of slavery —

which emboldens racist goons.

The labor movement has a big stake in this fight. The rulers' assaults on voting rights, affirmative action, and immigrant rights are aimed at striking blows to our civil liberties and weakening our capacity to fight. Their ultimate targets are the organizations and fighting will of the entire working class.

Today the federal investigators are dragging their feet, while treating the victims of the assaults on Black churches like they're the criminals. At the same time, state and local police and federal cop agencies are involved with every rightist outfit in this country and they can't continue to claim ignorance as to who is the culprit.

We call on trade unions, farm organizations, student groups, civil rights associations, and every democratic-minded individual to organize and join protests demanding the government provide immediate protection for Black churches and the police cease harassing parishioners and running lie-detector tests on pastors. Instead they should find and prosecute the perpetrators of the violence.

Now is the time to get out into the streets and demand: Apprehend and jail the racist arsonists!

Stop the attacks on affirmative action and voting rights! Federal troops to protect Black churches!

'Militant' summer printing schedule

With next week's issue the *Militant* begins its summer printing schedule. Issue no. 27, printed on Thursday, June 27, will be a 12-page paper. The *Militant* will then take a two-week break. Issue no. 28 will be printed and shipped on July 18. After that we will publish biweekly until mid-August. We urge distributors to take this schedule into account when ordering their bundles.

Do higher wages mean less jobs?

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

It's been seven years since the last time the minimum wage rose in the United States. Big-business politicians, who bickered before Congress over hiking this pittance recently, approved legislation to increase it from \$4.25 per hour to \$5.15. "It's a very poor way of really helping the working poor," Arkansas Rep. Timothy Hutchinson piously argued, opposing even this pathetic boost.

The *Wall Street Journal* editors declared that the minimum wage is a "crackpot idea" and called on the servants of capital to "end the minimum wage charade once and for all." The *Journal* asserted that "the minimum wage hurts the poor and the more so the higher it's raised."

Columnist James Glassman claimed, "You can't repeal

AS I SEE IT

the laws of supply and demand. If you raise the price of something (in this case labor), then buyers (in this case employers) will demand less of it. Hike the minimum wage and employers will fire workers and hire machines, or cut back the hours of those who do remain."

John Weston, the English workers' representative to the First International, raised similar views at special sessions of the organization on May 2 and May 20 in 1865. The First International, founded in 1864 with the participation of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, took the name International Working Men's Association. It united working-class organizations in a number of countries in Europe and North America.

Weston argued that a general rise in wages could not lead to an improvement of workers' material and social conditions and any struggle by the trade unions to increase wages would have a harmful effect on the proletariat.

Marx answered Weston's remarks at two sessions of the General Council of the First International on June 20 and 27, 1865. "If you accept supply and demand as the law regulating wages," said Marx, it is "useless to declaim against a rise in wages, because, according to the supreme law you appeal to, a periodical rise of wages is quite as necessary and legitimate as a periodical fall in wages."

Marx explained that "the general tendency of capitalist production is not to raise, but to sink the average standard of wages." This fact was underscored by Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the Clinton administration's Council of Economic Advisers, who stated that the current \$4.25 minimum wage rate is at a 40-year low in buying power.

If a worker "resigned himself to accept the will, the dictates of the capitalist as a permanent economic law, he would share in all the miseries of the slave, without the security of the slave," said Marx.

Capitalism creates unemployment

Under capitalist society there is a universal rivalry among the capitalists for the increase of the division of labor and machinery and for their exploitation upon the greatest possible scale. In his pamphlet *Wage-Labor and Capital*, Marx explains how this competition "outlines the industrial war of capitalists among themselves. This war has the peculiarity in that the battles in it are won less by recruiting than by discharging the army of workers. The generals (the capitalists) vie with one another as to who can discharge the greatest number of industrial soldiers."

Norman Barber, the chairman of Britain-based Smiths Industries Aerospace, told London's *Financial Times* that increased international competition forced the aerospace bosses in the United Kingdom to eliminate 120,000 jobs — from 250,000 in 1980 to 130,000 today. This reduction occurred despite Britain's lower labor costs — 58 percent of those in the United States and 52 percent of those in Germany. In fact, British Aerospace official Mike Turner said productivity gains would spur the industry to drop an additional 30,000 jobs. This illustrates that lower labor costs for the capitalists do not translate to more jobs for workers — especially in a period of depression.

In the United States, striking machinists at the McDonnell Douglas plant in St. Louis are fighting cutbacks by the bosses. Employment there has dropped from 40,500 in 1990 to 23,000 today. Working people worldwide are increasingly resisting cost-cutting measures, which have eliminated hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Working people "fulfill only a duty to themselves," as Marx put it, when we fight to defend our jobs or press demands such as a shorter workweek with no cut in pay. "Time is the room of human development," Marx explained. "A man who has no free time to dispose of, whose whole lifetime, apart from the mere physical interruptions by sleep, meals, and so forth, is absorbed by his labor for the capitalist, is less than a beast of burden. He is a mere machine for producing foreign wealth, broken in body and brutalized in mind."

While waging such struggles for immediate demands, Marx urged working people "not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerrilla fights incessantly springing up from the never-ceasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market."

"Instead of the conservative motto 'A fair day's wages for a fair day's work,'" Marx pointed out, workers "ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword: 'Abolition of the wages system.'" By fighting for demands like raising the minimum wage and jobs for all, working people will see the need to struggle for precisely this goal.

14,000 grocery workers locked out in Canada

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards,

tive agreement, which will reduce the number of full-time positions and slash regularly-scheduled hours of work for part-time employees. In

Ogden responded to the threat of strike action by hiring replacement workers and training them under the noses of the existing workforce. It paid the scabs at time-and-a-half during the strike.

The company also suspended the delegate for the striking workers, Clinton Selwyn, on trumped-up charges of using threatening language. On returning to work, the part-time strikers found their hours had been chopped in half.

The workers have reached out to others in the labor movement by picketing travel agents downtown and calling on other airport workers to ban work on scab-loaded planes.

Ansett workers gave up the chance to earn sixteen hours at penal rates by respecting the plea of the striking Ogden workers.

ON THE PICKET LINE

working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Fourteen thousand grocery workers from 130 supermarket stores across British Columbia set up picket lines on May 31 in response to a lockout by Safeway and the Overwaitea Food Group, which also owns Save-On-Foods stores.

"They're trying to split us up and weaken the union," said Michelle Fedesoff, a six-year cashier and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1518, during her picket duty at a Safeway store in downtown Vancouver. The company's latest concession offer gives new hires Can\$8 an hour, and puts a wage cap at Can\$10 an hour (Can\$1 = US\$0.73). A wage freeze is proposed for all other workers. The bosses have proposed a Can\$35,000 buyout to eliminate senior workers. Most of the workers are part-timers.

The company's latest proposal is a final-hour replacement of the first offer, which included a Can\$6-an-hour cut in wages over the term of the agreement, with an immediate Can\$2 pay cut, Fedesoff explained. A rollback in benefits and hours worked was tabled.

According to the May 31 UFCW bulletin, *Update*, the new offer proposes a two-tier wage scale and a restructuring of the current collec-

many stores, it currently takes 15 years to achieve full-time status; under the new plan, such status would be altogether eliminated.

In a vote held the second week of June workers overwhelmingly rejected the "final" offer by the employers, setting the stage for what is expected to be a long battle.

UFCW members had rejected the original offer by the company by a 96.3 percent vote. During that ballot they also gave the strike mandate to their union.

There is overwhelming support for the workers from passersby and customers. Shop steward Christine Taggart explained, "We're fighting for the future so that our customers' sons and daughters won't be second-class citizens when they get a job at Safeway."

Airport workers fight for contract in New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "We want, we want action!" has become the favorite chant of the 45 baggage and cargo handlers and cleaners employed by Ogden Aviation, who struck for eight days at the Auckland airport recently. Chanting pickets greeted airport workers and passengers entering the international terminal every day of the strike.

Set up as a nonunion operation several years ago, Ogden is now organized by the Engineers Union. The Ogden contract pays around NZ\$1.50 per hour lower than the contracts for Ansett and Air New Zealand, the airport's other major employers. There are no penal rates on weekends and no minimum number of hours for part-time workers. A full-time loader takes home a little over NZ \$300 a week, a part-time cleaner around NZ\$180. (NZ\$1 = US\$0.67).



Militant/Felicity Coggan

Public sector workers rally for wages in Hamilton, New Zealand, May 21, 1996.

hour picket lines.

"If we win other unions will win," shop steward José Nunes told the *Militant*. "If we lose all the other hotels will do the same thing."

Striker Viplay Singh said, "It's the beginning and we don't know where the end is." Last fall Ontario's Conservative Party government repealed a ban on the use of scabs by employers. Many workers see the Westin strike as a test of the union's strength under the new provincial labor law.

The strikers, many of them women, continued picketing as security guards video taped them.

Shop steward Hussein Darbani, a cook at the hotel for 11 years, described what the strikers are up against. It's a fight for "human rights," he said. "Last year they didn't hire any Blacks in the kitchen. They abuse the Chinese women and the women from the Philippines. They call them idiots if they forget their name tags or say 'go back to your own country.'"

Darbani said a three-year contract expired May 31. The new contract, he said, wipes out all "past practice." The company wants to force the housekeepers who currently make a wage of Can\$12.41 an hour do "piece work" for Can\$6.50 for each room they clean.

If the company wins, cooks like Darbani will be forced to clean rooms or do other jobs on demand. The workers will face suspension and firing if they don't produce a

doctor's note on the first day of an illness. They can be called in for a minimum of three hours work. They will have to pay for cleaning their own uniforms.

The bosses are offering a three-year contract with a wage freeze in the first year and raises of 1.5 percent in each of the following years.

The strike of the Westin Harbour Castle hotel workers follows a June 9 settlement by 700 members of Local 528 of the Service Employees International Union, race track mutual clerks who were locked out at the Ontario Jockey Club since February 26.

The locked out workers were forced to take a substantial wage cut and other concessions.

The Ontario Federation of Labour has been waging a campaign of one-day strikes and demonstrations against the austerity and anti-union drive of the provincial government.

The next protest strike is scheduled for June 24 in Peterborough, a city of 90,000 north of Toronto. Tens of thousands of workers have taken part in the three previous "Action Days."

Ned Demerson and Jacob Gavin in Vancouver; Malcolm McAllister, member of the Engineers Union in New Zealand; and John Steele, member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 in Toronto, contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Who won the Cold War?

The recent discussion on the current situation of the workers' states in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is useful in helping to clarify the world revolutionary process in its entirety. If we learn anything from the recent events there, it should be that the epoch of socialist revolution, which was opened with the Russian revolution in 1917, is alive today and that reports of the death of history are very much exaggerated. Rather than asking who lost the cold war, it may be more relevant to ask who won it.

Here the answer is unequivocally, the workers within the workers' states and by extension the workers of the world.

Is the deepening penetration of market relations impoverishing the people of this region? Yet, how could it be otherwise in a time of world economic depression and crisis. It does not follow, however, that capital is in a better position today to overturn the social relations, which are deeply ingrained in the hearts and minds of millions of increasingly combative workers.

While it is true that communist leadership continuity was broken by the Stalinist overseers, it is equally true that capitalist "cultural" continuity was broken. Capitalism's strength has been in the spontaneous way it recreates its own conditions and values of inequality and

competition. What is different in the workers' states is that a modern working class already exists in the absence of capitalism or a local capitalist class. In every country in question, the working class has taken their new-found political freedom to organize and fight against each step of the various governments' privatization plans.

The result of any of today's particular battles is not decisive. Of far more importance is the valuable lessons that these workers are gaining in combat experience, experience denied to them for decades under Stalinism.

The idea that imperialism is ready and able to take these workers on is increasingly questionable. Communists never say that the working class can't be defeated, but we know that in trying to defeat them, the imperialist will ignite massive class battles through which the workers in the workers' states will make their contribution to the world revolution including the reknitting of a truly international communist movement.

Mark Wyatt
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

On 'Megan's Law'

I have some opinions about your

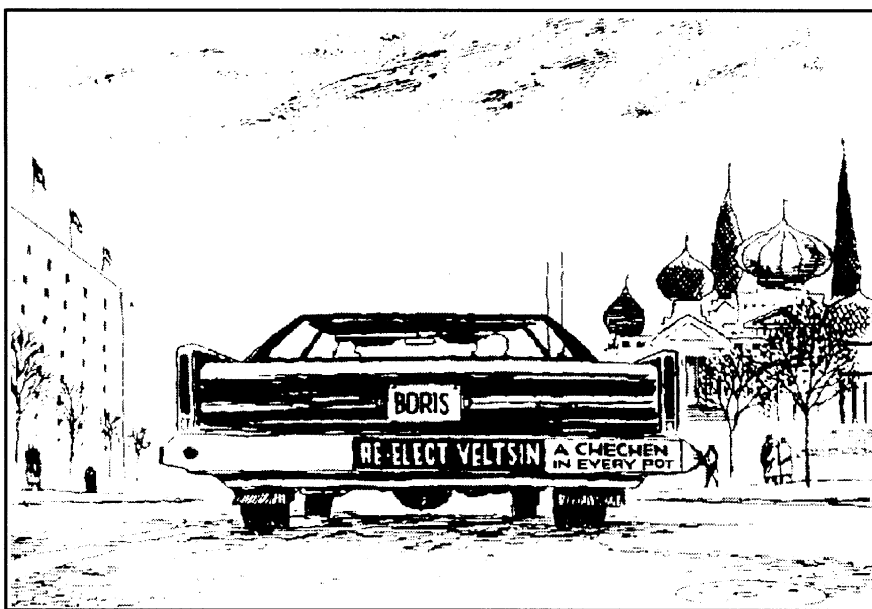
Hotel strikers: "If we win other unions will win"

TORONTO — Over 100 dancing, chanting and singing hotel workers blocked trucks and handed out leaflets to hotel guests in the second day of their strike.

Six hundred members of Local 351 of the Textile Processors, Service Trades, Health Care Professionals and Technical Employees International Union walked out at midnight June 10.

More than 99 percent of the workers voted to strike in the face of demands by the Westin Harbour Castle bosses to gut their union contract.

In "job fairs" held in April and May the company recruited 200 scabs in preparation for the strike. They are now living in the hotel guarded by dozens of security guards. The workers have put up 24-



editorials in the issue of June 3, 1996. I have read somewhere that if you are on the side of the employer, you are not on the side of the workers.

On the editorial "Repeal Megan's Law": President Clinton of the U.S. has just signed legislation known as "Megan's Law." The bill requires local notification of a person convicted of a sex offense. I could say directly that I am against such a law. I am aware of the increasing violence in our society today and that one must abide by the law. But "Megan's Law" is an attack on democratic rights and it is

arbitrary because this law does not permit the right to a trial and jury.

In the editorial "Lift the embargo on Iraq" you have enumerated all the tragedies of the Gulf War.

I hope sincerely that the U.S. lifts the embargo and that Iraq will be permitted to sell oil for their social and medical needs.

I think that the demand "U.S. out of the Middle East" is right. Clinton hopes that he can remove Saddam Hussein and replace him with someone amenable to U.S. dictates.

One can hope that the masses of toilers tomorrow, who are young now will fight for their rights even

in Iraq.
A reader
Stockholm, Sweden

Need 'Militant'

I would like to learn more about your publication the *Militant*. What is it about, what group of people is it aimed at, etc. What is the yearly subscription rate for prisoners and how often is it published? I am requesting, along with the other information, a complimentary (one time) issue so that I may review the contents.

A prisoner
San Diego, California

The *Militant* receives many requests from readers behind bars. The *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't afford to pay for them. To help us respond to requests for subscriptions please send your contribution to the *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

London tries to justify excluding Sinn Fein from talks on Ireland

British cops fail to clear shopping center despite bomb warning

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — "Whatever the cause of this morning's incident in Manchester, Sinn Fein's focus remains firmly fixed on the need to restore the peace process and we will not be deflected from that task," said Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams.

Adams was responding to the effort of the British government to justify their exclusion of Sinn Fein from the "all party talks" following a June 15 bombing in downtown Manchester. British ruling-class politicians of all stripes have been clamoring to outdo each other with expressions of outrage over the bomb, which went off outside the Arndale shopping center. The explosion caused massive damage, estimated at hundreds of millions of pounds.

Failure of the police to respond to coded warnings an hour and 20 minutes before the blast and clear the area resulted in 228 people being injured.

There were many international football fans in the city center, intending to go to the big Euro96 soccer match on the day. "The shops stayed open and the police were half-hearted; that's why there were so many people in the area," explained a man selling *Big Issue*, a newspaper that raises money for the homeless. He had been in the Arndale and had been injured himself.

"I blame the politicians for this," said one rail worker at Piccadilly, Manchester's main railway station. Workers at the station took the initiative to try to clear the area, although the railway bosses kept it open and continued to bring in hundreds of passengers under the high domed glass roof before, during, and after the explosion. "Several expressed the view that Sinn Fein had to be included in talks, others expressed their anger at the IRA, but the discussion was calm," reports a Piccadilly guard (brakeman).

A woman who stopped to talk to *Militant* sellers who were on the spot in Manchester when the bomb exploded said, "I don't agree with killing innocent people,



Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams (center) at recent press conference in Belfast after his party increased votes in London-sponsored election. Whatever caused explosion in Manchester, Adams said, Sinn Fein remains focused on restoring peace process.

but I'm Black and we understand that when they are in your country you have to do something to make them leave. I understand why they do things like this bomb. The British should leave."

"This callous act of terrorism while the Queen was reviewing the color of the Irish Guards is an insult to both nations," said British Prime Minister John Major. "I utterly condemn this disgraceful, appalling act of terrorism. If the IRA thinks it can shift the resolve of any government with this action it is cruelly mistaken," commented Labour Party leader Anthony Blair.

Some Tory and Unionist members of parliament have called for the banning of Sinn Fein and a return to internment or imprisonment without trial, which London last imposed on Northern Ireland from 1971 to 1975. This proposal has been rejected by both London and Dublin governments, however, as politically untenable.

The secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Patrick Mayhew, told BBC radio June 17 that, in the wake of the bombing, British

government policy remained unchanged. Meeting the next day, the Dublin government policy remained unchanged. Meeting the next day, the Dublin government also adopted a no-change position. Media speculation that Washington would now deny Sinn Fein leaders entry to the United States was without foundation.

The previous week London continued to bar the Sinn Fein delegates, elected by 15.5 percent of the voters of Northern Ireland, from taking their seats at the negotiations over the future of the Six Counties.

On the opening day of the talks the world's press focused on the Sinn Fein delegates, who arrived with a cavalcade of cars and vans from the working-class districts of Belfast only to be barred entry to the talks. "We have been denied our right to be part of the collective challenge of building peace in this country," said Adams, locked outside Stormont Castle. "Our success at the ballot box has confirmed our right to be inside, not outside, these talks," he said, referring to the substantial increase in elec-

toral support for Sinn Fein candidates at the polls.

As the Sinn Fein delegates were being interviewed outside, the proceedings inside Stormont got under way with a rowdy dispute between the Unionist (pro-British) parties over the appointment of George Mitchell, a former U.S. senator, as chairman of the talks. Since the establishment of a united Ireland is both in the interests of U.S. capital and is a popular demand by many working people in the United States, Mitchell is seen by the Unionist parties as "fully in the Republican camp," as Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionists put it.

After David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party agreed to the appointment of Mitchell, Paisley erupted, "This is a battle for the soul of this province. I will dedicate my life as never before to overturning the dastardly deed that was done."

Events descended into near farce when a representative of the UK Unionist Party lurched forward to try to sit in the chairman's seat. He was pushed out of the way by British minister Michael Ancram, who then ordered an aid to sit in the chair until Mitchell came in. As Mitchell entered, Paisley and other delegates walked out. They came back later, however, to sign up to the "Mitchell Principles," the conditions laid down for participation in talks by a commission headed by the U.S. politician months ago.

"The British Government has to decide does it want peace or further war," said Sinn Fein leader Pat McGeown. "Our people in struggle will not go away." McGeown was speaking to a public meeting of 100 people in Hackney, North London, on June 12. "We're here to find a way that we, as people who are politically active and interested in moving the situation forward, can recreate the conditions for peace."

The meeting was held in the Halkevi Community Center. McGeown got a warm reception from supporters of political prisoners in Turkey, who are on hunger strike, when he was introduced as one of the Irish prisoners who went on hunger strike in 1981 along with Bobby Sands. The protesters came in to participate in the gathering, which was simultaneously translated into Turkish.

McGeown's tour ended with a meeting the day after the bomb of 300 in the Camden Irish center. There the Sinn Fein leader said there is a long history of the British ruling class ignoring the results of elections in Ireland. The call for a campaign in Britain to demand the British government carry out negotiations without preconditions, making Ireland an issue in the upcoming general election, was met with loud applause.

Anne Fiander in Manchester contributed to this article.

'Objective is to end British rule in Ireland'

The following are excerpts from the speech that Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams would have delivered in Belfast had his party's delegation been admitted to the all-party talks.

"Our objective is to end British rule in Ireland," Adams states. "We want to see a society on this island which reflects the diversity of our people. This is not therefore a northern issue only. Partition effects all of us. Irish freedom, democracy, and peace are in the interest of all the people on the island. Sinn Fein seeks national self-determination, the unity and independence of Ireland as a sovereign state....

"Our vision foresees the unity of the people of this island. East with west, north with south, urban with rural, Catholic with Protestant and dissenter. Our vision is for the redistribution of wealth, for the well-being of the aged, for the advancement of youth, for the liberation of women and for the protection of our children. Our vision rejects forced emigration and unemployment, the destruction of the environment, cultural oppression, sexism and inequality.... Our vision embraces education. It embraces democracy. It is economic, as well as political. Our vision is for a free Ireland and for a free people. It is for an end to war."

'Support Kurdish hunger strikers'

BY MARTIN HILL

LONDON — "Support the hunger strikers in prison in Kurdistan and Turkey," reads a large banner outside Halkevi Center, a Kurdish community center in Stoke Newington, north London. The center has become headquarters for organizing solidarity with 1,500 political prisoners in 40 prisons across Turkey who are on a hunger strike demanding prisoner-of-war status, as well as basic rights like access to lawyers, medical treatment, books, telephone calls, and family visits.

"The prisoners are protesting the brutality and torture rampant against political inmates in Turkey, and Ankara's repression of the Kurds," said Turkan Hilat, an activist in the Hunger Strikers Support Committee. According to Amnesty International, at least 15 inmates died in Turkish jails from torture in 1995 alone.

The prisoners' action began in Diyarbakir and has spread across the country. Among those participating are four former members of the Turkish parliament, sentenced to 15 years in jail for alleged membership in the banned Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). The group is one of the main organizations leading the Kurdish struggle for self-determination.

Since June 3, solidarity hunger strikes have been taking place in cities throughout

Europe. In London, 65 Kurds have joined the hunger strike. "We want to live like human beings," said Hilat. "Turks have their own passport and identity. We want the same. We don't want borders between our people," she said, referring to the division of Kurdistan between Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq.

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Irish Question

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